Monday September 7 1998

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The Guardian

INTERNATIONAL

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

THE UNIVERSITY OF JORDAN SERIALS

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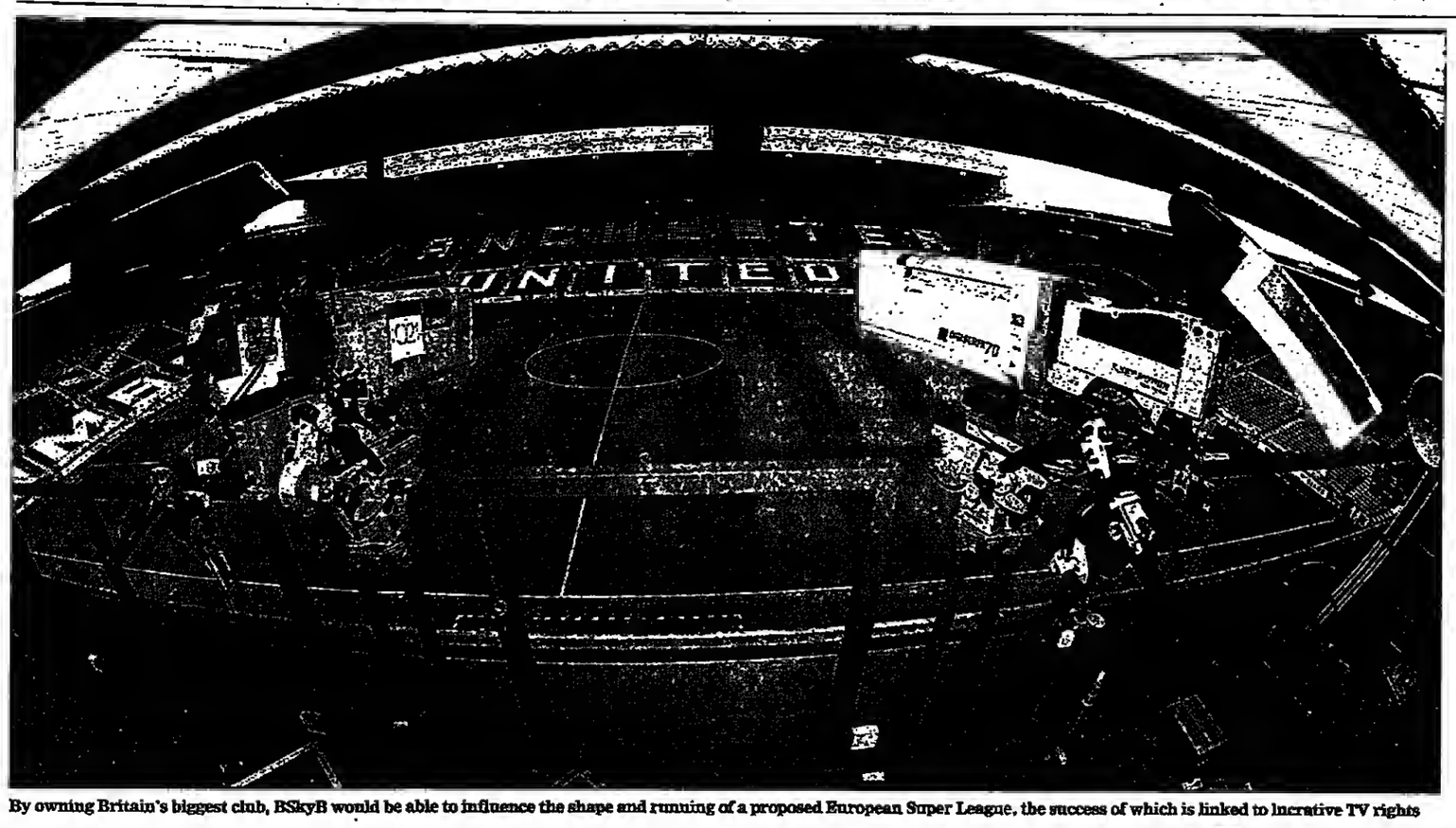


By owning Britain's biggest club, BSkyB would be able to influence the shape and running of a proposed European Super League, the success of which is linked to lucrative TV rights

'We have the long-term rights in most countries to major sporting events. We intend to use sports as a battering ram in all our pay television operations'

Rupert Murdoch, 1996

Anger at 'unfair' Sky deal

Inquiry into £575m Man Utd takeover

Vivek Chaudhary and Lisa Buckingham

THE biggest-ever takeover deal in football history, which could result in the world's most powerful media magnate taking control of the world's richest football club, is to be investigated by the Office of Fair Trading, amid fears of a breach of competition law.

The £575 million bid by Rupert Murdoch's BSkyB for Manchester United would give the television company an iron grip on the lucrative broadcasting rights to England's football Premiership.

Both Manchester United and BSkyB confirmed yesterday that they are in negotiations, and that a final decision on the takeover deal is expected this week. More details of the bid are expected to be unveiled today.

The sports minister, Tony Banks, immediately raised concerns about the deal, saying a monopoly inquiry could be warranted. Football supporter groups expressed deep unease, claiming that the country's biggest broadcaster of football would have an unfair advantage if it also owned the biggest club.

Manchester United and BSkyB have been in negotiations for five months. The company already has the rights to televise all Premier League matches, in a deal worth £647 million which is due to end in 2001.

By owning a wealthy and powerful club, BSkyB would have a say in any future television rights negotiations. It would be well placed to influence the shape and functioning of a proposed European Super League, the success of which is being linked to lucrative television rights and the attraction of teams like Manchester United.

An OFT spokesman said: "We will certainly have to see what the terms of the offer include. It is possible there could be competition implications, but there might be a restrictive agreement, in which case we would challenge it."

The spokesman added that the investigation into the deal will look into whether or not it restricts the ability of other television companies to compete for the rights to televise Manchester United's games.

BSkyB is reported to have offered the club 225p per share. Trading in United shares on the stock market closed at 159p on Friday. Martin Edwards, the club's chief executive, who has been leading the negotiations, will receive more than £80 million for his 14 per cent stake. Thousands of shareholding fans will get a windfall.

Mr Banks said yesterday: "This is not something that can be treated as if it were just a normal takeover of one publicly-quoted company by another. Television is relying more and more on sport to sell advertising. If you buy up the biggest football club in the country, then clearly the implications for commercial policy are fairly profound."

Both Downing Street and the Department of Trade and Industry said they would look "very carefully" at any competition issues raised by a deal.

Roger Gale MP, vice-chairman of the Conservative party's parliamentary media committee, said: "I do not believe it is the place of media empires to own football teams. What it means is that Murdoch will have a vote at the Premiership negotiating table. It is a way of buying a vote around that table."

The OFT is already taking BSkyB, the BBC and the Premier League to the Restrictive Practices Court early next year to decide whether they are operating a cartel by not allowing football clubs to individually negotiate television rights to their matches.

If the court rules that clubs have the right to negotiate their own deals, then BSkyB, as the owner of Manchester United, would be in a strong position, particularly with pay-to-view football set to be the next feature of the television revolution.

A spokesman for the BBC, which has paid the Premier League £46 million for the right to televise match highlights until 2001, said: "When the main club becomes linked to the main broadcaster of live football, there are bound to be implications."

News of the deal enraged United fans. Former manager Tommy Docherty said: "The game has already moved away from the true fans and this type of thing dilutes the passion even more."

Courtship ends, page 3; Leader comment, page 9

Uphill task for leading Scots Tory

Gerard Seenan

SCOTTISH Conservatives yesterday presented Edinburgh lawyer David McLetchie with the unenviable brief of leading them from the political wasteland back into the mainstream.

Mr McLetchie's election as the first leader of the Scottish Tories coincided with an NOP poll showing that only 13 per cent of the electorate intended to vote for the party in the Holyrood elections next May. This would give it 13 MSPs in the 129-seat parliament.

The rightwinger saw off his only rival, the populist former Ayr MP Phil Gallie, by 91 votes to 83.

Mr McLetchie, aged 46, is relatively unknown in Scottish politics, even within Tory ranks and even though he is a former party president. Few know him as anything other than an ally of the unpopular former Scottish secretary Michael Forsyth.

Mr Gallie, however, is a well-known and media-friendly face. But he was consistently passed over for ministerial positions when the Conservatives were in power.

Mr McLetchie expressed his delight at being offered the newly created mantle: "This has been an historic day for the Scottish Conservatives ... Today symbolises that the Scottish Conservative party has changed."

His election, however, did not banish concern in the party over why no key figures stood for the position. Its president and former foreign secretary Sir Malcolm Rifkind declined to stand.

William Hague, the Conservative leader, welcomed his Scottish lieutenant to the new role. "I am delighted that a man of David McLetchie's calibre will lead the Scottish Tories into May's election," he said.

Health chief's '£350,000 pay-off'

NHS trust in crisis under pressure to end contract

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

A HEALTH trust in Cornwall, where the NHS is in financial crisis and is controversially closing a children's hospital unit, is considering giving its chief executive a pay-off of £350,000.

The mooted severance package for Philip Sanders, of Cornwall Healthcare trust, is 3½ times the forecast annual saving from closure of the Rainbow ward for children at West Cornwall hospital, Penzance.

Confidential documents seen by the Guardian show Cornwall Healthcare is under pressure from the NHS Executive to terminate Mr Sanders's contract before the trust's planned merger next spring.

Solicitors have warned the trust: "You will be aware of the calculation of the costs of such a course of action ... which gave estimates for the potential cost of approximately £350,000.

Philip Sanders, head of Cornwall Healthcare trust

"Clearly sums of this magnitude are likely to attract publicity should they leak into the public domain and, in the context of health service changes in Cornwall, the situation would need to be handled extremely carefully."

Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, last month vetoed closure of four cottage hospitals run by the trust, proposed to help tackle a £4 million-a-year deficit in the county.

He did, however, approve other cuts, warning that Cornwall "cannot expect to be bailed out indefinitely at the expense of other parts of the NHS". These savings include shutting 17 beds at Lamellion elderly-care hospital in Liskeard, run by Cornwall Healthcare, and closing Rainbow ward, run by the Royal Cornwall Hospitals trust.

Mr Dobson also approved public consultation on merger of Cornwall Healthcare with a third trust, Trecare, which runs learning disability services in the county, "to make savings in management costs".

The documents seen by the Guardian include correspondence from Bevan Ashford solicitors, leading NHS law specialists, to Catherine Blight, who chairs Cornwall Healthcare, on implications of the proposed merger.

One letter, dated July 22, notes that the regional office of the NHS Executive is "now looking for a termination of the chief executive contract in September/October this year". It cautions the trust has no power to do so without being in breach of contract.

To buy out the remainder of Mr Sanders's contract, to August 2000, would cost £143,000, says the letter from David Owens, a Bevan Ashford partner. Mr Sanders earns a basic £75,000 a year.

The letter warns, however, that Mr Sanders would be likely to succeed in arguing for additional money in respect of a foregone redundancy payment — otherwise payable at the point of merger — and enhanced pension, taking total costs to £350,000.

Mr Owens writes: "The potential costs of the redundancy argument are such that I believe the trust should be making urgent, if discreet, inquiries to ascertain, whether or not Mr Sanders can be effectively placed elsewhere within the NHS so as to avoid any difficulties over a redundancy pension liability."

Mrs Blight was yesterday unavailable for comment. But Michael Eldred, Cornwall Healthcare's vice-chairman, said no decisions had been made on Mr Sanders's future.

Fears for four trapped in cave

Geoffrey Gibbs and Nicole Veash

FEARS for the safety of two lifeboatmen and a father and son trapped in a sea cave were growing last night after a dramatic air-sea rescue in appalling conditions caused by the tail-end of Hurricane Danielle.

The lifeboatmen fell into the sea while attempting a rescue in Tintagel, Cornwall. Coastguards said that the incident started when an 11-year-old boy surfing off the beach was swept out to sea.

His father swam out to rescue him and they made the apparent safety of a sea cave. A small inshore lifeboat from Port Isaac was sent into the cave to rescue them, but two crewmen were pitched into the water in the swell.

A third crewman from the stricken lifeboat, which was smashed to pieces on the rocks surrounding the bay, was rescued by helicopter.

Coastguards said that the four people in the cave were on a ledge and apparently clear of the water. However, the wreckage of their boat was blocking the entrance to the cave.

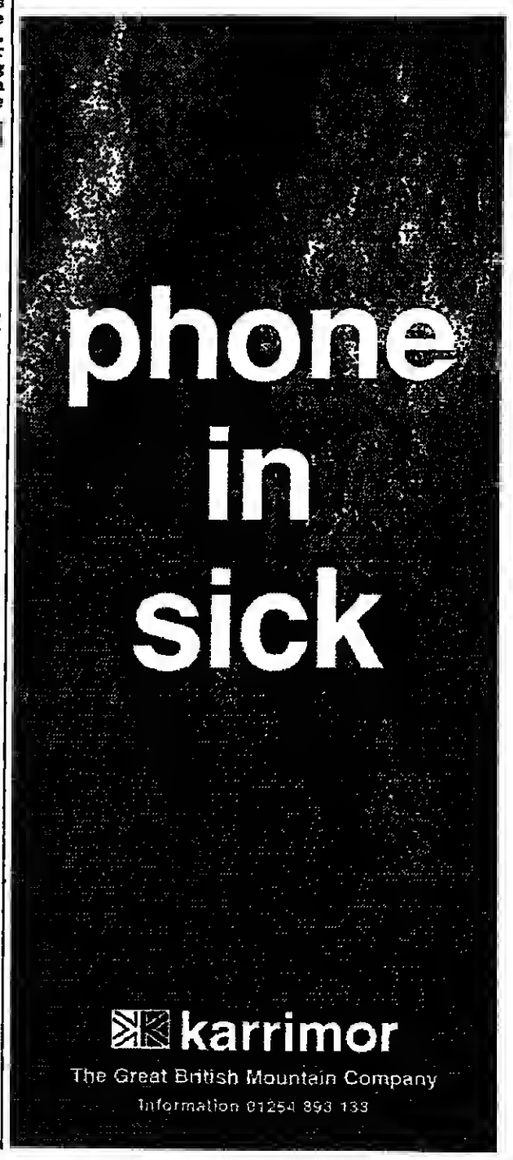
A lifeboat from Bude had to turn back as the heavy white-water swell made a rescue attempt too dangerous.

Two rescue teams were poised to try to reach the trapped four by lowering themselves off a cliff.

A spokesman for Cornish Police said: "This was a major incident and the sea, air and coastal services were all involved."

The emergency was the worst in a string of weather-related incidents in the far west of England last night, with the coast buffeted by big waves and heavy seas as the tail-end of Hurricane Danielle approached Britain.

A police Land-Rover was swept into the sea on the Isles of Scilly by a freak wave as it drove down the quay at Hugh Town, on St Mary's. The driver was unhurt.



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In *The* **Guardian Sport** today: Introducing seven athletes who are on their way to the games in Kuala Lumpur

+ Julie Welch is Fair Game + Pete Nichols is Centre Stage + Classifieds + Crossword

Labour guarded on monarchy reform

Think-tank says royalty should give up all but symbolic role

Lucy Ward
Political Correspondent

DOWNING Street yesterday moved swiftly to deny support for proposals from the Government'e favoured think-tank for root-and-branch reform of the monarchy, including the abolition of the automatic right of succession of the heir to the throne.

The report from the left-leaning think-tank Demos — headed by Geoff Mulgan, a member of the Downing Street policy unit — stops short of recommending abolition of the monarchy, but argues "dramatic" reform is needed if the institution is to match public expectations. Among its radical measures are proposals to give the public the right of veto over a new King or Queen, the scrapping of the monarch's political powers and the ending of the role of the Sovereign as Supreme Governor of the Church of England.

Though the report comes after the Royal Family has signalled a cautious willingness to modernise, Downing Street moved to make clear that its vision of a "people's monarchy" does not come near the Demos recommendations.

A spokesman said: "The report has nothing to do with the Government and does not reflect Government views. No one in the Government was involved in drawing it up."

Tory sources disagreed, suggesting Demos, with its close New Labour connections, was voicing "what Tony Blair thinks but can't say". The report could add to resentment among some within or close to the palace, who believe that the New Labour establishment is trying to bounce the royal family into hasty reform.

Liam Fox, the Conservative constitutional affairs spokesman, suggested the report's recommendations that the Royal Family should use state schools and the National Health Service reflected efforts to "entrench centre-left New Labour ideas into out institutions".

He claimed details of plans by Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, to cut back the royal family's annual funding increase by two thirds to a figure in line with the Government's inflation target was further evidence of Labour support for the "back door Republicanism which Demos represents".

Treasury sources yesterday confirmed that the next 10-year deal over the monarchy's government funding, due in 2001, was expected to be significantly lower than the current annual 7.5 per cent annual increase, agreed under the last Conservative government.

Buckingham Palace offered a polite but guarded acknowledgement of the report's conclusions. A spokeswoman said: "Whilst we will read the report with interest, any issues of constitutional reform would be a matter for Parliament to decide."

The Queen will be briefed on the report, and its findings studied by the Way Ahead Group — the informal committee of senior members of the Royal Family and their advisers. The group has already responded to Downing Street pressure to modernise with an agreement to reduce the number of royals permitted to adopt the HRH title. Other attempts to portray a monarchy more in touch with the people have seen the Queen visiting a pub and being photographed outside McDonald's, while Prince Charles posed with the Spice Girls.

Demos hailed an opinion poll published in yesterday's Independent on Sunday as evidence of public support for reform. The Mori poll found 60 per cent of people thought the monarchy should be modernised, while 49 per cent believed the Queen should relinquish her political role, including the right to dissolve parliament.

Mark Leonard of Demos, co-author of the study with Times leader-writer and self-styled "not just dry but arid Conservative" Tim Hames, said the poll showed the depth of support for significant reform.

The report suggests that the monarch's role should be that of head of state, but with "minimal connection with the executive, the legislature or the judiciary".

The Speaker of the Commons would take over responsibility for the appointment of the Prime Minister and the dissolution of Parliament, the Royal Assent allowing Bills to become laws would be abolished and a Minister of Justice should appoint judges.

The report calls for the monarchy to become "professional and accountable". The royal household would be replaced with a civil service-run Office of the Monarchy, which would publish its accounts, and a Commons select committee would scrutinise its financial affairs.

The Act of Supremacy of 1559, which makes the monarch the head of the Church of England, should be repealed, the report suggests. A referendum should decide whether or not the heir should succeed to the throne.

The reforms would leave the monarchy with a symbolic role — more important to the public than any other, according to the report — involving educational awards, patronage of the arts and a role as "ambassador at large" to "heal bitterness about Britain's past around the world".

Polly Toynbee, page 8
Leader comment, page 9

Main points

- Automatic right of succession of the heir to the throne should be abolished with public right of veto over a new monarch.
- Royals should receive state education and be tested on the NHS.
- The monarch should not automatically be head of the Church of England.
- The monarch should become a roving ambassador to "heal bitterness about Britain's past around the world".
- The Speaker of the [illegible] should take [illegible] for appointing [illegible] and dissolving [illegible]
- The head of [illegible] should take [illegible]
- A minister of justice should take responsibility for appointing judges.
- The Royal Household should be replaced by a civil service-run Office of the Monarchy.

Japan's emperor of film dies at 88

Jonathan Watts in Tokyo

AKIRA Kurosawa, the Oscar-winning Japanese director who enthralled audiences across the world with masterpieces such as Seven Samurai and Rashomon, died yesterday of a stroke at his Tokyo home. He was aged 88.

The sudden loss of one of the most influential figures on the Japanese cultural landscape was greeted with shock and sorrow by the millions of moviegoers who grew up watching the 30 films he produced over his 55-year career.

"He led a magnificent life and his films will be his legacy," said his son Hisao, at a packed press conference.

Nicknamed The Emperor for his perfectionism and domineering style, Kurosawa made 30 films. Lauded by a domestic audience for his depiction of samurai values and an earthy humanism, his elaborate cinematography and gripping plots also influenced several generations of international filmmakers.

Among the movies that owe a debt to Kurosawa are The Magnificent Seven (closely based on Seven Samurai), For A Fistful Of Dollars (Yojimbo) and Star Wars (The Hidden Fortress).

His achievements were recognised internationally in 1952, when the epic Rashomon won an Academy Award for Best Foreign Film. Upon winning a second Oscar in 1985 to mark his 50 years in the industry, the director modestly said he did not deserve the honour.

Kurosawa, who was known as a dictator on the set, said his greatest work was Ran, the 1985 film based on King Lear. At a cost of more than $10 million it was also the most expensive movie in Japanese cinema history.

Yesterday several television stations ran special programmes to mark his impact on the nation, including Fuji TV, which proclaimed: "He brought Japanese film to life and dazzled the world with his vision."

Actor Hisashi Igawa, who played roles in several of Kurosawa's later films, said the director was in his element when making movies.

"Kurosawa had the heart of a boy and the mind of a genius," Igawa told reporters.

People interviewed on the street reacted with shock to the news.

"I'm a big fan. It is hard to imagine that this country will ever produce another director like Kurosawa," said one middle-aged man. "It's a shame he couldn't have made just one more film."

The director's son said Kurosawa had written the scripts for two films that he was planning to make.

Kurosawa once wrote: "Take 'myself', subtract 'movies', and the remainder is 'zero'."

He is survived by his son and a daughter.

Obituary, page 10

Akira Kurosawa: 'Take "myself", subtract "movies", and the remainder is "zero"'

PHOTOGRAPH: KEYSTONE PRESS AGENCY

Seven Samurai, made in 1954, inspired Hollywood's The Magnificent Seven

TUC warns Blair of jobs threat to 250,000

David Gow
Industrial Editor

UNION leaders will warn Tony Blair today that up to a quarter of a million jobs could be lost and the recession in manufacturing industry could turn into a slump unless the Bank of England cuts interest rates this week.

Senior members of a TUC delegation will urge the Prime Minister at a Downing Street meeting to set up a task force of ministers, employers and unions to co-ordinate measures to breathe life into manufacturing — or see its problems swamp the still-buoyant services sector.

The call follows a spate of job cuts by domestic and foreign companies, including last week's decision by the Japanese firm Fujitsu to close its semiconductor plant in Mr Blair's Sedgefield constituency, with the loss of 600 jobs.

But the unions' main target is the Bank, whose monetary policy committee (MPC) meets later this week, and whose governor, Eddie George, is to address the TUC's annual congress in Blackpool next week.

Ken Jackson, leader of the AEEU electrical and engineering union, said last night: "Eddie George has one last chance to show he wants a manufacturing base to remain in Britain before he addresses the TUC. If the MPC refuses to cut interest rates ... manufacturing could enter the new millennium in the midst of a slump."

But most City analysts expect the Bank to keep rates at 7.5 per cent until at least later this year or early 1999, despite fears that the economic crises in the Far East, Russia and Latin America could engulf industrialised countries like Britain and force a 1929-style slump.

Even so, economists at accountancy firm PricewaterhouseCoopers warned last night that the risk of Britain sliding toto a full recession was growing stronger daily, even before the Russian crisis.

Rosemary Ratcliffe, the head of economics at PwC, said: "Recent events, by threatening the stability of the international financial markets, have further increased the dangers of a severe global downturn."

With Mr Blair calling a mini-summit of the G7 leading industrialised countries to discuss how to deal with Russia's crisis, Alan Greenspan, the chairman of the United States's central bank, the Federal Reserve, indicated he was considering lower rates because of the impact of the global downturn.

At home, David Blunkett, the Employment Secretary, admitted that growing world crises could hit the Government's flagship Welfare to Work programme, designed to take 250,000 unemployed young people off the dole.

Last night both Downing Street and Mr Blunkett insisted the Government would stick to its economic policy "of building stability for the long term". But union leaders said this must include urgent measures now to safeguard manufacturing.

In a report to be sent to all Labour MPs and MPC members, the AEEU said: "The Government cannot afford to play one-club golf, and has to realise that a strong manufacturing base is an integral part of a healthy economy." Inflationary pressures had eased, warranting a rate cut.

> 'The world crisis is wreaking havoc on our manufacturing industry'

Roger Lyons, leader of the MSF union, said: "The rapidly developing world economic crisis is wreaking havoc on our manufacturing industry."

The union campaign won backing from John Redwood, the shadow trade and industry secretary, who said the Government's economic policies would demolish much of British manufacturing.

"In one year, Labour has changed the UK from the first choice for investment from most global companies into their first choice for factory closures," he declared. "Even in tough markets like microprocessors, production continues in other countries — including Ireland and Germany."

G7 meets on Russia, page 6;
Vickers jobs at risk, page 12

Gee what a pity, the disco party never got started

Review

Garth Cartwright

The Bee Gees
Wembley Stadium

WEMBLEY'S car park is filled with coaches bearing the tags of towns and cities across Britain. Inside, the all-seater stadium is three-quarters full with families, office groups, couples, even a crew of ironical disco blokes kitted out in flares and fake Afros, waiting for the Brothers Gibb.

What exactly is everyone expecting? The Bee Gees' last notable performance on British soil saw them walking off Clive Anderson's TV show when he took the mickey. But while the Bee Gees have often been laughed at — all that big hair and big teeth and screechy falsetto voices invites parody — they have laughed all the way to the bank. They are the fifth most successful pop-music entertainers of all time.

With that kind of income, touring is not necessary. And watching Saturday night's less than feverish performance, one wonders why they bother. Their fans may be legion and span generations but, as one punter said on the way out, "£55 is a lot to pay for a crap seat and an average performance". Put simply, if you pay to see the Bee Gees at Wembley, they'd better be an essential part of your life.

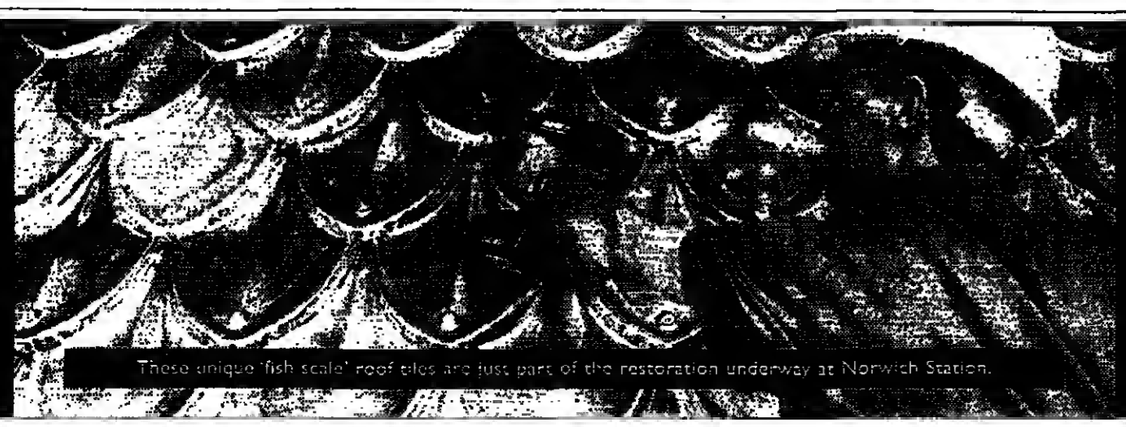
One Night Only was Saturday's title and, essentially, the show was a 24-song greatest-hits medley from across the decades. Backed by a minimal five-piece band, brothers Barry, Robin and Maurice sang in a relaxed, if proficient, manner. And that, pretty much, was it. For good measure, they threw in interpretations of hits they wrote for the likes of Barbra Streisand, Kenny Rogers and Celine Dion. This involved filling up the video screens with footage of Ms Dion and the Gibbs horsing around. Dead kid brother Andy also got this treatment.

Undeniably gifted slush merchants that they are, the Bee Gees appeared to misread their British audience. With the summer success of the revived Grease movie, and the West End production of Saturday Night Fever, there is a lot of goodwill towards the disco-flavoured hits they produced in the late 1970s. Yet Wembley was treated to saccharine ballads rather than good grooves.

Whenever anything with a hint of a beat started, the audience rose as one, yet this would invariably be followed by something as naff as I Started A Joke. There was no doubting the abilities of the Miami musicians behind the stars — Staying Alive positively crackled — yet the biggest hits were given no more time, twist or passion than the maudlin fluff that made the Bee Gees the least fashionable band of late 1960s London.

Every artist is entitled to revisit his or her back-catalogue, and Bee Gees songs have made tremendous vehicles for great singers as radically different as Al Green and Gram Parsons. But beneath a full moon at Wembley, the hoped-for 1970s disco party never really got started.

Large scale improvements



These unique 'fish scale' roof tiles are just part of the restoration underway at Norwich Station.

426
stations have now been regenerated by
RAILTRACK
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هكذا من الأصل

Great names who have played for Britain's biggest football club include, from left, Denis Law, George Best, Bobby Charlton, and Eric Cantona, pictured with the Premiership trophy in 1997, when Manchester United did the double

Courtship ends as soccer and TV are united

The Sky deal follows a path well trodden on the Continent. The question is why it has taken so long. **Stuart Millar** reports

Martin Edwards, the club chairman, left, has been a director for 28 years. Merchandising at Man U, right, has been been a runaway success

IT IS 1992 and British football is about to witness the emergence of two sporting phenomena. One is Rupert Murdoch's BSkyB, a satellite broadcaster desperate to find a way of selling more subscriptions. The other is Manchester United, a sleeping giant of a football club desperate to reassert itself after more than a decade in the doldrums.

Under the noses of the BBC and ITV, Sky swoops with an audacious £304 million bid to secure the live television rights to the new Premier League. Manchester United are crowned Premiership champions in the inaugural season, the first of the club's four championship victories over the next five seasons. In the space of a few months, the game is transformed beyond recognition.

Six years on, football is again on the brink of a new era with the news that the game's most important influence is planning to buy its most famous club. After a long courtship, television and football are set to become one.

The revelation of BSkyB's £575 million bid stunned fans, annoyed politicians and even caught the analysts on the bop. But the scale of the buyout underlines that, while Mr Murdoch's entry into club ownership was by no means inevitable, the attractions were too rich to let pass.

The rumoure that the media tycoon was in the market for a British club surfaced a fortnight ago with reports that he was holding discussions with Tottenham Hotspur's chairman, Alan Sugar, to take over his shareholding in the beleaguered north London club. Both sides made a convincing job of killing the story off.

But the signs were there long before that. Two years ago, Mr Murdoch left observers in no doubt as to how important sport is to his business. He told the News Corp annual meeting that sport, and football in particular, "absolutely overpowers" film and all other forms of entertainment in drawing viewers to pay television. "We have the long-term rights in most countries to major sporting events and we will be doing in Asia what we intend to do elsewhere in the world — that is, use sports as a battering ram and a lead offering in all our pay television operations," he said.

Sky already owns the exclusive live television rights to Rugby League and England Rugby Union games, as well as some cricket matches. But Mr Murdoch has been setting the trend for team ownership in the United States where he has bought the Los Angeles Dodgers baseball team for £187 million.

He also has part shares in the L.A. Lakers and New York Knicks basketball teams, and the New York Rangers ice hockey team. Where better to go next than with the most recognised football brand on the planet, famous for its success in the world's most lucrative league?

Despite the furore which greeted the revelation yesterday, the Sky buyout of United would merely set British football down a path already well trodden on the Continent. Silvio Berlusconi, the media tycoon and former Italian prime minister, has owned A.C. Milan for more than a decade. In France, Paris St Germain is owned by the television channel Canal Plus.

"The question a lot of analysts are asking themselves today is why has it taken so long for this to happen," said Matthew Glendinning, a writer on football finance.

The answer may be that Mr Murdoch had no need to take over a club because Sky already had all the television rights. And no other media owner would have been likely to get involved in a club in the knowledge that the team's matches would be broadcast not on their own station but on Sky.

Now all that may be about to change. At the moment, the clubs negotiate the sale of the television rights collectively through the Premier League. The first challenge to that will come in January, when the Restrictive Practices Court bears a case brought by the Office of Fair Trading. It wants the court to decide whether the collective sale of rights in one deal amounts to a monopoly.

The league is defending the case, but the reality is that the clubs will benefit whatever the outcome. If the OFT wins, the rights will revert back to the individual clubs, which will then be in a position to sell them to whomever they please. If the league wins, the clubs continue to get their large wads of cash from Sky.

The latter outcome is the more likely. But that will merely mean a stay of execution for the collective system, rather than a reprieve. For the Sky deal is set to run out in 2001, and all the indications are that it is unlikely to be renewed.

"The big clubs have a duty to maximise returns to their shareholders, and the economic logic is that there will no longer be an advantage for them in selling their television rights through the league," Mr Glendinning said. "Manchester United has been trying for years without success to gets its fair share of the television money anyway."

So by taking over the biggest club in the country, Mr Murdoch will be in a position to guarantee live football coverage on Sky — and in turn guarantee substantial paying audiences.

It also means that Sky will be able to exploit pay-per-view to the full. In May, the broadcaster suffered a surprise setback to its plans to make Premiership football a centrepiece of its new digital service when the 20 top-flight clubs rejected its pay-per-view proposals. With the top seat on the United board and the old collective system out of the way, there should be no such hindrances in future. With a fan base of around 4 million, experts predict that pay-per-view will add £10 million to Sky/United's pre-tax profits within five years.

The seeds of United's pay-per-view operation are already in place. Last month, the club launched its own digital channel, MUTV, in a joint venture with Sky and Granada. Since it is unable to show the live matches, it is little more than an electronic version of the club fanzine, showing old games, player interviews, team news and, of course, a home shopping service for United merchandise.

The attractions of owning United go far beyond the domestic game. Mr Murdoch, along with A.C. Milan's Mr Berlusconi, was one of the driving forces behind proposals for the breakaway European Super League. But last week, the English clubs rejected the proposals in return for concessions from Uefa on the shape of European competitions. Without control of a club, Mr Murdoch would have been locked out from influencing the shape of that league, and the distribution of television rights.

If the reasons for Mr Murdoch's offer to buy are numerous, less apparent are United's reasons for selling. That may come down simply to the fact that the chairman, Martin Edwards, has never been regarded as a die-hard football man. Despite being a director since 1970, and taking over as chairman from his father 10 years later, Mr Edwards is regarded as primarily a rugby fan who has always been open to offers for the club. After 18 years in charge, it appears he has finally found his price.

Club shares set to soar in media rush

Lisa Buckingham
City Editor

HARD-PRESSED investors in Britain's quoted football clubs are likely to see the value of their shares soar this morning as other media companies follow BSkyB's bid for Manchester United with their own takeover offers.

Carlton, the London and Midlands ITV company, is believed to be interested in buying a football club, and a senior consultant in the sector said Arsenal is thought to be holding talks which could double the price of the London club's shares.

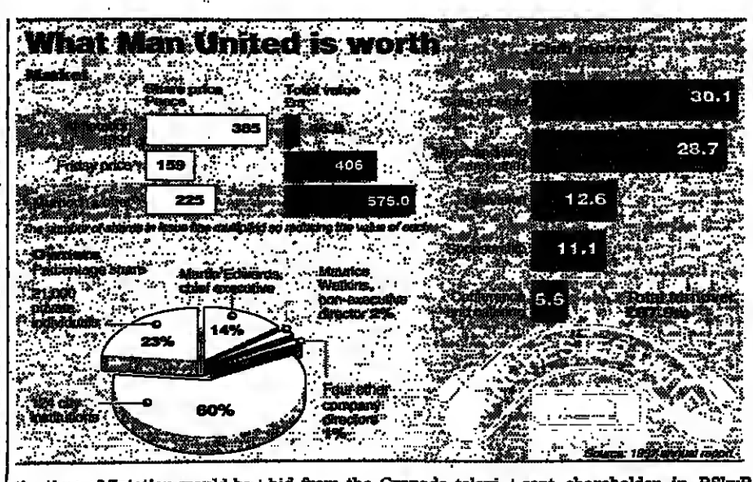
One senior adviser in the industry said: "Forget the Super League, the real issue for the Premier League this season is the number of TV companies trying to buy clubs."

Football clubs have lost much of their stockmarket following over the past year, helped by controversies such as that involving the controlling Hall family at Newcastle, and the efforts of Alan Sugar to sell his stake in Tottenham Hotspur. But BSkyB's bid for Manchester United seems to highlight the sector's potential value and could electrify share prices.

Less than 10 years ago, Martin Edwards, the chairman and chief executive of Manchester United, could not find anyone to take the club off his hands for £20 million. When its shares were floated in 1991, Manchester United had a price tag of £47 million and was making profits of less than £5 million a year.

By the end of last week the club's value had climbed to £406.3 million. Now BSkyB's bid — thought to be worth 225p a share and likely to be announced to the Stock Exchange this morning, will catapult that to £575 million, 20 times last year's profits.

Mr Edwards's 14 per cent holding is now worth £80 million, and the thousands of Manchester United fans who ploughed £200 into shares at the time of flotation would be sitting on a nest egg worth possibly £2,830.



City experts said last night there was a chance of a rival bid from the Granada television group — which is a partner in Manchester United TV alongside the football club and Sky. Granada is an 11 per cent shareholder in BSkyB, and a founder member of British Digital Broadcasting, to which Sky is contracted. Until recently its chairman, Gerry Robinson, was chairman of BSkyB.

United News, the media group which owns a range of businesses including the Daily Express and Meridian TV, has also been tipped as a potential bidder, but with BSkyB opening the bidding at £575 million, the price is regarded as too high.

The importance of television to the best performing Premier League clubs is demonstrated in Manchester United's recent figures, which show that last year television contributed £12 million in revenue, compared with £30 million of gate receipts and £27 million from merchandising. Five years ago, television earnings were worth less than £4 million.

But sport, particularly football, is probably even more important to the big media players — which is why BSkyB is currently paying about £140 million a year to the Premier League, a figure topped up by another £18 million from the BBC.

Protesting fans see red in the shadow of Sir Matt

Martin Wainwright

RUPERT Murdoch's eyes have been on Manchester United for some time, via three huge billboards for MUTV — "Lives and breathes United seven days a week" — which stare across the Old Trafford car park.

Their slogan for the Sky-linked service — "Get Closer" — read ironically to fans who called at the ground yesterday to register protests at the feet of Sir Matt Busby's statue.

"Dodgy deal," said Pete Maney, a bricklayer from Manchester. "Looks like we'll get even less of a say than we have under Martin Edwards." Unless manager Alex Ferguson had used his muscle to impose conditions, "Man U's going to be governed from a long way away."

Sophie, aged 12, and her brother Patrick, five, made the same point with a cynical For Sale sign. "They've done it because they're the lifeblood of the club and it is being sold from underneath them," their dad said, as Patrick eyed the £13 teddies and £2 bedroom door plaques in the club's shop.

Lilliput versions of the Murdoch deal were under way at the tills, with the stadium changing hands several times for £4 — which buys a 350-piece Old Trafford jigsaw puzzle. Puzzling out the bid's implications became part of the chat on the guided tours.

"I'm not going to say it's bad, definite, without finding out more," said Streatham postman Joseph Howe, one of scores of Cockney Reds — London supporters — up for a day trip to the ground.

"It could be in the interests of the club — they've been pretty clever management so far. The only worry is that linking them to the name of Murdoch may do damage."

'A lot of families can't afford to come to the game and now they may not be able to watch it on telly without paying as well'

A father and son from Birmingham also thought an extra half-billion could come in handy. The dad had heard they could not expand Old Trafford because of the railway. Maybe they could buy that now, too.

"Foreign" fans like these easily outnumbered Mancunians, proving one of the points spotted by Murdoch — the club's borders do not end at the Manchester ring road.

The Rupechester outfit would be money-, not game-based, said one fan, a sales manager, echoing the comment of Andy Walsh, spokesman for the club's fans association. Mr Edwards, said Walsh, knew "the value of nothing and the price of everything" and was selling the club and its supporters down the ship canal.

Ticket-holder Peter Wilson, a car worker from Denton, Manchester, predicted the club's withdrawal from the Premier League — and from the reach of ordinary pockets.

"I think it would inevitably mean a faster move to a European Super League and pay-per-view games on TV. A lot of families can't afford to come to the game and now may not be able to watch it on telly without paying as well."

MICHAEL DIBDIN & LIBBY PURVES
Tuesday 8 September
CHRIS PATTEN
Monday 14 September
JULIAN BARNES & IAN McEWAN
Tuesday 15 September
ALAN CLARK
Wednesday 16 September
RICHARD E. GRANT
Monday 21 September
Author Events at Dillons, Gower Street this Autumn
DR EDWARD O. WILSON
Tuesday 22 September
PROFESSOR PAUL DAVIES
Thursday 24 September
DR RAJ PERSAUD
Monday 28 September
HOWARD MARKS
Monday 5 October
JOE SIMPSON
Tuesday 6 October
BEN ELTON
Wednesday 7 October
GORE VIDAL
Thursday 22 October
DAVID ATTENBOROUGH
Monday 26 October
BENEDICT ALLEN
Tuesday 27 October
ROGER SCRUTON
Wednesday 4 November
RICHARD DAWKINS
Thursday 5 November
KATHY LETTE
Monday 9 November
PAUL ORMEROD
Monday 16 November
Venues and ticket prices vary. For a leaflet with full details call in person to the store, telephone 0171 467 7613 (credit card reservations only) or write, with your name and address to:
Marketing Department (Events), DILLONS THE BOOKSTORE 82 Gower Street, London WC1E 6EQ

RUC officer fighting for his life after blast

John Mullin
Ireland Correspondent

AN RUC officer was fighting for his life last night after receiving serious head injuries when a blast bomb was thrown at police during loyalist rioting in Portadown.

Another policeman suffered leg injuries when officers came under a hail of the home-made bombs as they sought to quell rioting on the Corcrain estate, stronghold of the hardline Loyalist Volunteer Force. The clashes followed earlier running battles on Saturday after a Right to March demonstration in the County Armagh town.

The attack on the 30-year-old officer, a father of three, was a stark reminder of the continuing violence in Northern Irelaod despite last week's momentous progress towards a new form of government in the province.

Other incidents yesterday included the punishment beating of two men in loyalist east Belfast, which left one seriously hurt.

And the Real IRA's bomb in Omagh claimed its 29th victim three weeks after it exploded in the County Tyrone town. Sean McGrath, 61, married with two sons and two daughters, died at the Royal Victoria hospital in Belfast.

Mr McGrath was in Omagh for a haircut but had found the shop was shut because the owner was attending a wedding. Two women remain in critical condition, with another 29 of the 220 injured still receiving hospital treatment.

Tom Craig, RUC assistant chief constable, condemned the violence in Portadown, which saw two Catholic-owned business burned out.

Mr Craig said: "I call on all community leaders to condemn this violence and intimidation unreservedly and work to establish good community relations for the good of the citizens of this town."

Northern Ireland's political leaders meet at Stormont today to try to agree more progress before next Monday, when the 108-seat assembly reconvenes. David Trimble, First Minister and Ulster Unionist leader, will chair the meeting, and will be forced to talk for the first time with Gerry Adams, Sinn Fein president. Mr Trimble will meet Mr Adams as early as tomorrow, where he will tell him that IRA decommissioning has to begin before he will agree to Sinn Fein taking np its two places in the 12-member power-sharing executive.

Mr Trimble said yesterday he would refuse to shake Mr Adams's hand, because "wheo he holds forward his hands, it's got two tonnes of Semtex, 600 AK 47 rifles and God knows what else in it".

Mr Trimble met his 110-member UUP executive council oo Saturday and felt the mood backed his approach to confront Sinn Fein. The initial stage will be to form a shadow executive before Northern Ireland functions are devolved in February.

Mr Trimble might allow Sinn Fein into the shadow cabinet after Mr Adams's indication that the terrorist war "must be" over and the appointment of Martin McGuinness to the international body overseeing decommissioning of terrorist weapons. He may justify the move by insisting Sinn Fein be barred unless decommissioning has begun.

Unionist hardliners, who accuse him of regularly shifting the goalposts on the issue, would be infuriated, with the chance of a split in his own party increased.

The first 17 convicted terrorists, including one murderer, to benefit from the accelerated release programme, part of the Good Friday Agreement, will be freed this week.

Peter Smith (left), Gillian Harvey and Ian Brown, found axed to death last week in a flat in Slough.

'Triple axe killer is dangerous'

Police appeal to public in hunt for 'vicious' attacker of three in flat

Amelia Gentleman

THE detective heading the search for the killer of three people with an axe described the murderer yesterday as deranged and warned that this person could strike again.

Detective Superintendent Trevor Davies said there were still no suspects nor any indication of motive, three days after the bodies of the three friends were found rotting in a flat in Berkshire.

Gillian Harvey, aged 30, her boyfriend Ian Brown, a decorator aged 36, and her former boyfriend Peter Smith, a railway worker aged 31, were discovered up to eight days after they were killed. A neighbour had rung the police to complain of a terrible smell.

Post mortems showed they died from multiple blows to the head, and an 18in axe was taken from the flat in Wellesley Road, Slough, where Ms Harvey lived with Mr Brown, for forensic analysis.

Mr Davies said the scene that confronted officers was "quite appalling". "The person who carried this out has got to be deranged in some way . . . I can't see anyone sane doing it. The viciousness of the attack makes it imperative we get this person off the streets without delay."

Despite the lack of suspects, or even any certainty about the number of people involved, he said the inquiry was making progress. "We are keeping an open mind as to motive, and we have not discounted anything — whether it be theft, sexual or any other motive."

There was no sign of a forced entry into the flat, but it did not appear that the killings were the result of quarrel among the three, he said. "They were very, very good friends."

Appealing for the public's help in finding the murderer, he added: "It is the duty of everyone who knows anything at all about these murders to come forward. Together we have to find the person responsible."

Thirty detectives had been assigned to the case, he said. Forensic experts had spent hours working inside the flat.

"I pay tribute to the officers involved for the professionalism they have shown in very distressing circumstances. The scene of the crime officers have been working in quite appalling conditions."

He paid tribute to the victims' families. "They are deeply distressed but have tried in every way to help us."

Results of forensic tests on the wooden-handled axe are expected soon. Mr Davies said he still hoped to find out if, and how, one person had overwhelmed three people.

Police said all the victims were born and grew up in Slough. A friend said yesterday: "Peter and Ian were lovely people, very easy-going and Ian and Gillian were very close."

Judy Rivlin believes stress led to Christopher, being born prematurely PHOTOGRAPH: RICHARD OLIVER

Stress puts birth at risk

Amelia Gentleman

WOMEN in stressful jobs run an increased risk of giving birth prematurely, the largest ever study of prematurity has found.

Women who work more than 40 hours a week in demanding professions are 40 per cent more likely to give birth prematurely. More than a third of babies born severely premature — between 24 and 32 weeks — fail to survive.

The study showed that a woman is 100 per cent more likely to give birth prematurely if she is poor, single and left school at 16. Women in jobs which are strenuous, or which require lots of standing or commuting long distances (especially by car rather than by rail), also run an increased risk. The danger of smoking was confirmed.

Gian Carlo Di Renzo, a professor in prenatal medicine at the University of Perugia in Italy, analysed nearly 16,000 mothers in 17 countries. He will present his findings today to a conference in London organised by Tommy's Campaign, the pregnancy research charity. He said yesterday: "People have known for years that pregnant women should avoid physically demanding work, but this research shows mental stress is also a risk.

"We also found that single women are seven times more likely to spontaneously abort between 14 and 22 weeks than women with a partner — another suggestion that psychological stress can cause preterm birth."

Britain has one of the highest rates of premature births in Europe — 7 per cent. In 1996, 40,000 babies were born in Britain at or before 37 weeks' gestation. Almost 5 per cent required long-term intensive care, and 10 per cent developed a permanent disability. Lucille Poston, a professor of foetal health at London university, said: "Britain has a particularly high rate partly because we also have one of the highest levels of teenage pregnancies. Smoking is another important factor: one in four of pregnant women smoke.

"Working women should look very carefully at their lifestyles during pregnancy in light of this research. It is the extra hours they work over 40 a week and what they do after work that count. They should take time to relax."

Judy Rivlin, aged 45, runs her own PR company in London. She believes the stress caused her son, Christopher — now nine — to be born prematurely.

"Because I run my own business it was hard to slow down. Even towards the end of my pregnancy I was working full time and putting in full days when I should have been taking things a bit more easy. I started getting high blood pressure, which I have never had before, and my ankles swelled up — but I ignored it because I had a lot of work on," she said. "Finally I was taken into hospital with pre-eclampsia and high blood pressure."

Hawking for animal experiments

Tim Radford
Science Editor

STEPHEN HAWKING, who has lived for more than 20 years with the wasting disease motor neurone disease, has spoken up for experiments on animals.

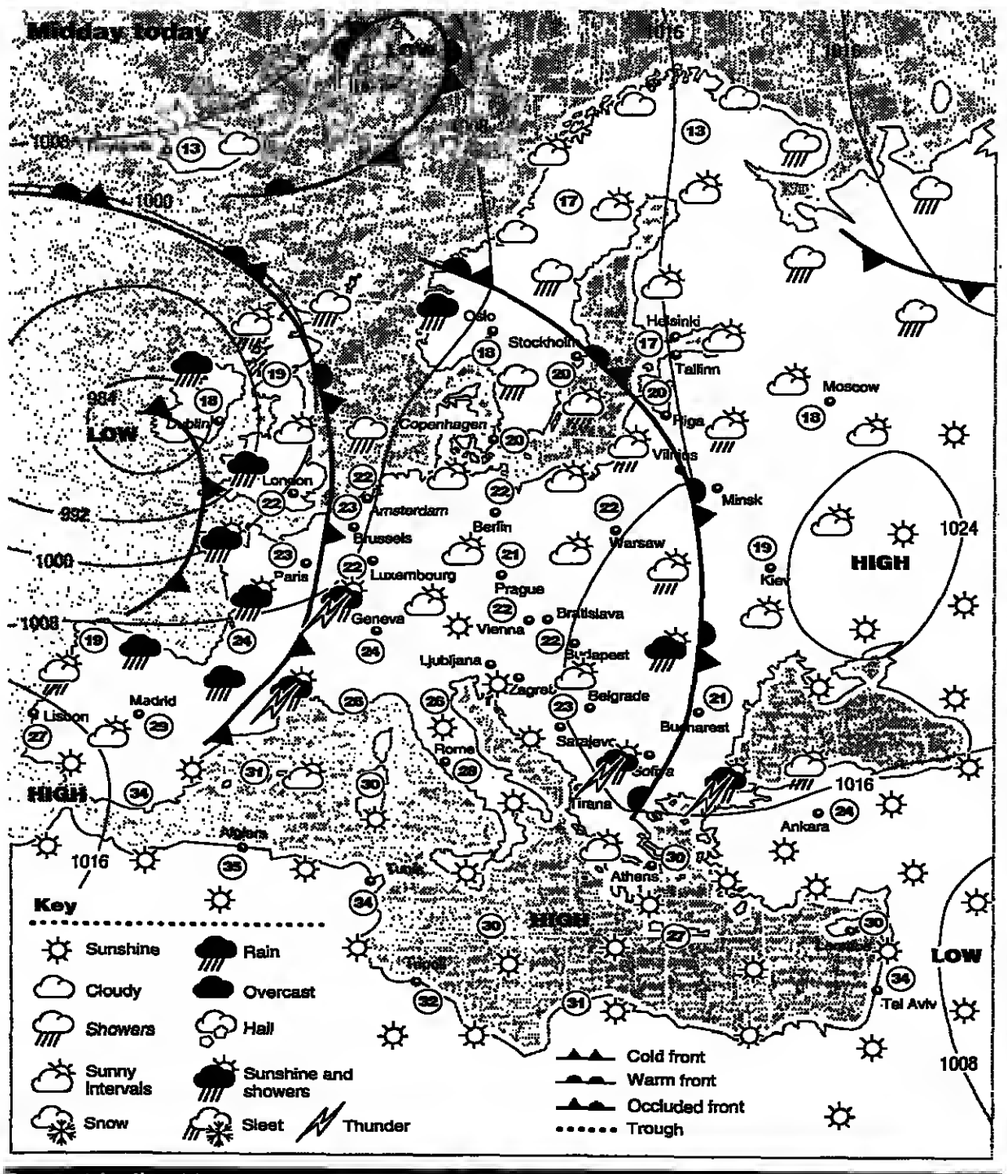
Professor Hawking, cosmologist and successor to Sir Isaac Newton's chair at Cambridge, has become a patron of a pressure group, Seriously Ill For Medical Research. "I think the fuss over the use of animals is ridiculous," he said yesterday.

"Why is it worse to use animal experiments to save lives than to eat them, which the majority of the population are happy to do? I suspect that extremists turn to animal rights from a lack of the more worthwhile causes of the past, like nuclear disarmament."

He timed his words to co-incide with a debate in Cardiff last night on animal experiments, on the eve of the opening of the British Association's science festival. Its president, Colin Blakemore, an Oxford professor, has been the victim of frequent attacks by campaigners.

● The New Lad is really a bit of a weed, sociologists Angus Bancroft and Jonathan Scourfield will tell the science festival. "He is curiously out of his depth in the midst of rapid changes affecting society at every level," they say.

The weather in Europe



European outlook

Scandinavia:
Southern Norway and Sweden will see a good deal of cloud with some showers or drizzly rain. Denmark and Finland and northern parts of Norway and Sweden will be largely fine and dry with sunny spells. Highs 13C in the north, 18-21C in southern areas.

Low Countries, Germany, Austria, Switzerland:
The Low Countries and Switzerland will start mainly dry, but cloud will steadily spread from the west and this will bring some showers or longer spells of rain late in the day. Germany and Austria will stay fine and mainly dry with plenty of sunshine. Highs between 20-23C

France:
Many parts of France will have thundery showers with some heavy falls of rain expected over the Massif Central and the western slopes of the Alps. Western France will be drier with better sunny spells, but another area of rain will spread into Brittany during the afternoon. Highs 20-23C in the north, 24-26C in the south.

Spain and Portugal:
Northern parts of Spain and Portugal will be cloudy at times with showers or longer spells of rain. However, very few showers will make it past the northern mountains. This will leave many central and southern areas dry and very warm to hot with some decent sunshine, although there will more cloud than recently. Highs from 19C over northwestern Spain up to 34C.

Italy:
A fine day with plenty of hot sunshine in most areas, although alpine regions will become cloudier during the day. Highs 24-26C in the north, 27-30C in the south.

Greece:
Mainly fine with a mix of clouds and hot sunshine. Highs 26-29C.

Around the world

Yesterday's lunchtime reports

Ajaccio	S	25	77	London	C	19	66
Algiers	S	31	88	Los Angeles	M	22	72
Alicante	S	29	84	Luxembourg	C	17	63
Amsterdam	C	19	66	Madrid	S	29	84
Athens	C	29	84	Majorca	S	28	82
Auckland	F	16	61	Malaga	S	27	81
B Aires	F	19	66	Malta	S	29	84
Bahrain	S	39	102	Melbourne	C	12	54
Bangkok	C	31	88	Mexico City	C	21	70
Barcelona	F	28	82	Miami	Th	26	79
Beijing	S	29	84	Milan	S	27	81
Belgrade	C	18	64	Montreal	C	20	68
Berlin	Dr	16	61	Moscow	C	13	55
Bermuda	F	31	88	Munich	Sh	16	61
Biarritz	S	31	88	Nairobi	C	22	72
Bombay	Th	29	72	Naples	F	27	81
Bordeaux	F	25	79	New Delhi	S	35	95
Boston	F	23	73	New Orleans	C	29	84
Brussels	C	18	64	New York	S	23	73
Budapest	C	16	61	Nice	S	25	77
Cairo	S	34	93	Oporto	C	20	68
Calcutta	C	30	86	Oslo	C	15	59
Cape Town	S	19	66	Paris	C	19	66
Casablanca	S	26	79	Perth	S	19	66
Chicago	S	29	84	Prague	C	16	61
Copenhagen	C	19	66	Reykjavik	F	12	54
Corfu	M	22	72	Rhodes	F	28	82
Dallas	S	36	97	Rio de Jan.	C	25	77
Dhaka	Sh	30	86	Rome	S	27	81
Dublin	R	15	59	Sarajevo	F	22	72
Faro	S	27	81	Singapore	F	32	90
Florence	F	27	81	Stockholm	F	17	63
Frankfurt	R	15	59	Strasbourg	C	20	68
Funchal	C	27	81	Sydney	S	16	61
Geneva	S	21	70	Tel Aviv	S	31	88
Gibraltar	S	24	75	Tenerife	S	28	82
Helsinki	C	15	59	Tokyo	C	25	77
Hong Kong	C	30	86	Toronto	S	25	77
Innsbruck	C	15	59	Tunis	S	31	88
Istanbul	S	25	77	Vancouver	F	21	70
Jo'burg	S	23	73	Venice	S	23	73
K. Lumpur	C	31	88	Vienna	Sh	18	64
Kingston	C	33	91	Warsaw	F	19	66
Larnaca	S	30	86	Washington	S	28	82
Lima	C	18	64	Wellington	C	14	57
Lisbon	F	26	79	Zurich	C	16	61

Forecast for the cities

Today

	max	min			max	min	
Algiers	35	21	F	Madrid	29	14	F
Amsterdam	22	14	Sh	Milan	27	17	F
Athens	30	22	F	Nice	25	18	Th
Berlin	22	14	Sh	Oslo	18	13	R
Bonn	24	16	Sh	Paris	24	15	Sh
Brussels	23	16	Sh	Rome	29	17	F
Copenhagen	20	14	Sh	Stockholm	20	12	F
Crete	27	20	F	Tunis	34	23	S
Geneva	22	16	Sh	Vienna	22	12	F
Larnaca	30	21	S				
London	24	16	Sh				

Tomorrow

	max	min			max	min	
Algiers	33	18	S	Madrid	31	15	S
Amsterdam	21	16	Sh	Milan	26	17	R
Athens	31	22	F	Nice	29	19	S
Berlin	23	16	Sh	Oslo	19	14	R
Bonn	22	15	Sh	Paris	23	15	Sh
Brussels	22	15	Sh	Rome	26	15	Th
Copenhagen	21	15	F	Stockholm	20	15	Sh
Crete	27	21	F	Tunis	32	22	F
Geneva	23	15	Sh	Vienna	23	14	F
Larnaca	31	22	S				
London	23	15	Sh				

Wednesday

	max	min			max	min	
Algiers	33	19	S	Madrid	33	17	F
Amsterdam	20	15	R	Milan	26	17	Sh
Athens	30	23	F	Nice	27	19	S
Berlin	23	15	Sh	Oslo	19	14	Sh
Bonn	23	17	R	Paris	24	15	Sh
Brussels	22	16	Sh	Rome	27	17	F
Copenhagen	20	15	Sh	Stockholm	20	14	Sh
Crete	28	21	F	Tunis	33	22	F
Geneva	23	15	Th	Vienna	24	15	F
Larnaca	32	22	S				
London	22	14	Sh				

Thursday

	max	min			max	min	
Algiers	35	21	S	Madrid	29	14	F
Amsterdam	19	12	Sh	Milan	25	18	Th
Athens	31	23	F	Nice	29	18	Th
Berlin	22	13	Th	Oslo	19	12	Sh
Bonn	21	11	Sh	Paris	22	12	Sh
Brussels	20	12	Sh	Rome	20	19	F
Copenhagen	18	12	Sh	Stockholm	18	13	Sh
Crete	28	22	F	Tunis	35	24	S
Geneva	22	14	Th	Vienna	24	16	Sh
Larnaca	31	22	S				
London	20	10	Sh				

C, cloudy; Dr, drizzle; F, fair; Fg, fog; H, hail; R, rain; Sl, sleet; Sn, snow; S, sunny; Th, thunder. * (previous day's readings)

Television and radio

BBC 1

7.00am Business Breakfast. 8.00 BBC Breakfast News. 10.00 Kilroy. 10.40 Breakers. 11.05 Sex Wars. 11.30 Daily Live. 11.55 News; Regional News and Weather. 12.00 Style Challenge. 12.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook. 12.55 News; Regional News and Weather. 1.00 Through the Keyhole. 1.25 Wipeout. 1.50 The Weather Show. 2.00 One O'Clock News. 2.30 Regional News. 2.40 Neighbours. 3.05 Breakers. 3.25 Quincy. 4.10 The Weather Show. 4.25 Children's BBC: Tales of Aesop. 4.30 Playdays. 4.50 Arthur. 5.10 Alvin and the Chipmunks. 5.40 Goosebumps. 6.00 Newsround. 6.10 Blue Peter. 6.35 Neighbours. 7.00 Six O'Clock News. 7.30 Regional News Magazine. 8.00 *This Is Your Life. 8.30 Here and Now.* 9.00 EastEnders. 9.30 Children's Hospital. 10.00 Nine O'Clock News. 10.30 Fraud Squad. 11.00 FILM: Jade. 12.00 Return to Normandy. 12.50 FILM: The Hill. 2.45 Weather. 2.50 BBC News 24.

BBC 2

7.30am English, English Everywhere. 8.00 Children's BBC: Teletubbies. 8.25 Smurfs' Adventures. 8.50 The Really Wild Show. 9.10 The Bikkitts. 9.35 Tales of Aesop. 9.45 Harry and the Hendersons. 10.10 Hawkeye. 10.50 Cartoon. 11.00 Children's BBC: Teletubbies. 11.30 FILM: The Man from Morocco. 1.20 Consuming Passions. 1.30 Working Lunch. 3.00 Children's BBC: Penny Crayon. 3.10 FILM: The Fighting Kentuckian. 5.45 News; Regional News and Weather. 6.30 Top Gear Motorsport. 4.25 News; Regional News and Weather. 4.30 How Does Your Garden Grow? 5.00 Change That. 5.35 Ready, Steady, Cook. 5.55 Esther. 6.30 Today's the Day. 7.00 The Simpsons. 7.45 Space 1999. 8.40 The Ren and Stimpy Show. 9.00 Local Heroes. 9.30 Looking Good, Feeling Great. 10.00 Shooting Stars. 10.30 Red Dwarf A-Z. *11.00 Red Dwarf.* 11.30 Newsnight. 12.15 Nightmare in Paradise. 12.55 Grace Under Fire. 1.25 Weather. 1.30 Learning Zone: Open University.

BBC Prime

● Intelsat

7.00am World News. 7.25 World Weather. 7.30 Jonny Briggs. 7.45 Active. 8.10 Tom's Midnight Garden. 9.30 Style Challenge. 9.35 Can't Cook, Won't Cook. 9.40 Kilroy. 10.30 Survivors: A New View of Us. 11.00 The House of Eliott. 11.55 Change That. 12.30 Style Challenge. 12.45 Can't Cook, Won't Cook. 1.10 Kilroy. 1.55 Songs of Praise. 6.30 Survivors: A New View of Us. 8.00 The House of Eliott. 3.55 Weather. 4.00 Change That. 4.25 Jonny Briggs. 4.45 Active. 5.05 The Prince and the Pauper. 5.35 Can't Cook, Won't Cook. 6.00 World News. 6.25 World Weather. 6.30 Wildlife. 7.00 Survivors: A New View of Us. 7.30 Fat Man in France. 8.00 Porridge. 8.30 Waiting for God. 9.00 Ballykissangel. 10.00 World News. 10.25 World Weather. 10.30 Travels with Pevsner. 11.30 Floyd on Britain and Ireland. 12.00 The Lifeboat. 12.50 World Weather. 1.00 The Spanish Chapel, Florence.

BBC World

● Eurotelecast

7.00am World News. 7.30 Earth Report. 8.30 World News. 8.30 Hard Talk. 9.00 World News. 9.30 The Skeleton Coast. 10.00 World News. 10.30 Correspondent. 11.30 Hard Talk. 12.00 World News. 12.30 Top Gear Motorworld. 1.00 The World Today. 2.00 Correspondent. 2.30 World News. 3.15 World Business Report. 3.30 The World Today. 4.30 The Air Show. 5.00 World News and Weather. 5.30 *Hard Talk. 6.00 World* News and Weather. 6.30 World Living: Earth Report. 7.00 The World Today. 8.30 Hard Talk. 9.00 World News and Weather. 9.30 World Focus: Window on Europe. 10.00 World News and World Business Report. 10.10 World Business Report and Weather. 10.30 World Living: The Travel Show. 11.00 World News. 11.10 Europe Direct. 12.00 World News and Weather. 12.30 World Business Report. 12.45 Asia Today and Weather. 1.00 World News. 1.00 USA Direct. 1.30 World Focus: Correspondent. 6.30 News and Weather. 2.30 World Living: Earth Report. 3.00 News and Weather. 3.30 Asia Today. 3.45 World Business Report. 4.00 News and Weather. 4.30 USA Direct. 5.00 News and Weather. 5.30 Asia Today. 5.45 World Business Report. 6.00 News and Weather. 6.30 World Focus: *Window on* Europe.

Radio 4

92.4-94.6 MHz; 198 kHz (1514)

7.00am Today. 10.00 A Week With. 10.30 Let the Rumpus Begin. 10.45 (FM) The Owl's Watchsong. 10.45 (LW) Daily Service. 11.00 News; Woman's Hour. 12.00 News; African Aromatherapy. 12.30 Little Novels. 1.00 News; You and Yours. 1.00 (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast. 1.57 Weather. 2.00 The World at One. 2.30 Words in Music. 3.00 News; *The Archers.* 3.10 News; Afternoon Play: From a Distance. 3.00 Money Box Live: (0171) 580 444. 4.30 Blind Man on the Rampage. 4.45 The Lyrical Ballads. 5.00 News; The Food Programme. 5.30 Four Corners. 6.30 PM. 6.54 (LW) Shipping Forecast. 7.00 News. 7.30 The Very World of Milton Jones. 8.00 News; The Archers. 8.15 Front Row. 8.45 Dear Jayne Browne. 9.00 News; Dr Feelgood. 9.30 In This Together. 10.00 News; Keiko's Story. 10.30 A Week With. 11.00 The World Tonight. 11.45 Book at Bedtime: Among the Ruins. 12.00 *Radio 4 Appeal.* 12.02 *Late Night on 4:* Antoine et Dougie. 12.30 The Music That Binds Us. 1.00 News. 1.30 The Late Book: Tales from Ovid. 1.45 Shipping Forecast. 2.00 As World Service. 5.30 World News. 5.35 Shipping Forecast. 5.40 Inshore Forecast. 5.45 Prayer for the Day. 5.47 Farming Today.

BBC World Service

BBC World Service can be received in England on MW 648 kHz (463m) and in Western Europe on LW 198 kHz (1515m)

5.00am News. 5.15 Stories from the Allwills. 5.30 Omnibus. 6.30 News. 6.10 Off the Shelf: Mason's Mini Break. 6.30 The Vintage Chart Show. 10.00 News; (S45 only) News in German. 10.10 Pause for Thought. 10.15 International Question Time. 11.00 News. 11.05 World Business Report. 11.15 Record News. 11.30 Westway Access. 11.45 Sports Round-Up. 12.00 Newsdesk. 12.00 Omnibus. 1.00 Newsdesk. 1.30 Jazzmatazz. 6.30 News; (S45 only) News in German. 2.05 World Business Report. 2.10 Britain Today. 2.30 *Seven Days.* 2.43 Sports Round-Up. 6.30 Newshour. 4.00 News. 4.05 Outlook. 4.30 The Edge. 5.00 World News. 5.05 Sports Roundup. 5.15 Westway Access. 6.30 Joe Strummer's London Calling (S45 only) News in German. 6.00 Europe Today. 6.30 World Business Report. 6.45 Britain Today. 7.00 News. 7.15 Insight. 7.30 Seven Days (S45 only) News in German. 7.45 Sports Roundup. 8.00 Newsdesk. 8.30 Brain of Britain. 9.00 Proms '98. 9.30 Pause for Thought. 10.00 Newshour. 11.00 News. 11.05 World Business Report. 11.10 Britain Today. 11.30 Songs of the Sufi Mystics. 12.00 Newsdesk. 12.30 Insight. 12.45 Sports Round-Up. 1.00 News. 1.00 Outlook. 1.30 Multitrack 19 List. 2.00 Newsdesk. 2.30 Westway. 2.45 Britain Today. 3.00 Newsdesk. 3.30 Seven Days. 3.45 Bringing Up Baby. 6.00 Newsday. 4.30 On Screen. 5.00 News. 5.05 World Business Report. 5.15 Sports Round-Up. 5.30 The World Today. 6.00 The World Today.

Sky Movies Screen 1

● Astra

7.00 The Land Before Time II: The Great Valley Adventure. 8.15 Buck and the Magic Bracelet. 10.00 Alaska. 12.00 An Unexpected Family. 2.00 Buck and the Magic Bracelet. 4.00 Ladyhawke. 6.00 Alaska. 8.00 An Unexpected Family. 10.00 Touched By Evil. 12.00 Dangerous Minds. 1.40 Basquiat. 3.35 Only When I Laugh. 5.35 The Land Before Time II.

Sky Movies Screen 2

● Astra

7.00 The Last American Hero. 9.00 After Jimmy. 11.00 A Kid in King Arthur's Court. 1.00 The Last American Hero. 3.00 Little Shop of Horrors. 5.00 After Jimmy. 7.00 A Kid in King Arthur's Court. 9.00 Moose: Part Two. 11.00 Johnny Mnemonic. 12.40 Hijacked: Flight 285. 2.15 The Cherokee Kid. 3.50 Crime of the Century.

Sky Movies Gold

● Astra

8.00 The Scarlet Empress. 7.00 Major League. 9.00 The World's Greatest Lover. 11.00 The Abyss. 1.20 When the Cat's Away. 3.00 *Les Patterson Saves the World.* 4.30 I Met Him in Paris. 5.55 Close.

Sky Sports

● Astra

8.00 Football League: Oxford United v Portsmouth. 9.30 Racing News. 10.00 Aerobics Oz Style. 10.30 Basketball: Sainsbury's Classic. 1.00 Aerobics Oz Style. 1.30 What a Weekend. 2.00 Cricket: Lancashire v Hampshire - Live. 7.00 Sports Centre. 7.30 What a Weekend. 8.00 Football League Review. 9.00 Motorcycling Special: *Assen Superbikes & Imola Grand Prix.* 11.00 Sports Centre. 11.15 Cricket: Lancashire v Hampshire. 12.45 Sports Centre. 1.00 Football League Review. 6.30 Motorcycling Special: Assen Superbikes & Imola Grand Prix. 4.00 Sports Centre. 4.15 Close.

Sky Sports 3

● Astra

1.00 Football: Oxford United v Portsmouth. 2.30 NFL American Football. 5.00 Football League Review. 7.00 Windsurfing: World Championship. 7.30 Survival of the Fittest. 8.00 Fish TV. 9.00 Dancing: IDSF US Open Standard & Latin. 10.00 Football League Review. 11.00 Sports Classics. 12.00 Olympic Series: Olympic Destinies. 12.30 Close.

Eurosport

● Astra/Eutelsat

5.30 Athletics: IAAF Grand Prix Final. 10.15 Cycling: Tour of Spain. 11.00 Extreme Sports: X Games. 12.00 Football: Euro 2000 Qualifying Rounds. 6.30 Duathlon: World Championship. 8.00 Cycling: Tour of Spain - Live. 5.00 All Sports: Ebrun Triathlon. 5.30 Football: Euro 2000 Qualifying Rounds. 7.00 Motorsport: FIA GT Championship. 6.30 Extreme Sports: Youth Only Zone. 8.00 Strongman: Strongest Team World Championship. 10.00 Football: Euro 2000 Qualifying Rounds. 12.00 Boxing. 1.00 Extreme Sports: X Games. 1.30 Close.

Sky 1

● Astra

6.00 Tattooed Teenage Alien Fighters from Beverly Hills. 6.30 Street Sharks. 10.00 Garfield and Friends. 10.30 The Simpsons. 11.00 Games World. 11.10 Games World. 11.30 Just Kidding. 12.00 The New Adventures of Superman. 1.00 Married...With Children. 1.30 M*A*S*H. 1.55 The Special K Collection. 3.00 Geraldo. 3.55 The Special K Collection. 5.00 Sally Jessy Raphael. 5.55 The Special K Collection. 6.00 Jenny Jones. 6.55 The Special K Collection. 8.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show. 8.30 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine. 7.00 Married...With Children. 7.30 *Friends.* 8.30 The Simpsons. 9.30 Real TV. 8.30 Star Trek: Voyager. 10.00 Sliders. 11.00 Chicago Hope. 12.00 Friends. 12.30 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine. 1.30 Nowhere Man. 6.30 Long Play.

National Geographic

● Astra

6.30 Predators: Lions of the Kalahari. 9.00 Predators: The Teeth of Death. 10.00 Predators: Brother Wolf. 11.00 Predators: Island of the Giant Bears. 12.00 Moving Giants. 12.30 The Firstborn. 1.00 Mysteries of the Maya. 1.30 Herculaneum. 2.00 Close.

UK Gold

● Astra

8.00 Crossroads. 8.30 Neighbours. 8.55 EastEnders. 9.30 The Bill. 10.00 The Bill. 10.30 Bergerac. 11.30 The Sullivans. 12.00 Dallas. 12.50 Neighbours. 1.25 EastEnders. 2.00 All Creatures Great and Small. 3.00 Dallas. 3.50 The Bill. 4.25 The Bill. 4.55 Bergerac. 5.55 EastEnders. 6.30 Angels. 7.00 All Creatures Great and Small. 8.00 Don't Wait Up. 8.40 Dad's Army. 9.20 Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em. 10.00 Red Dwarf. 10.40 Red Dwarf. 11.20 Red Dwarf. 12.00 Red Dwarf. 12.35 Red Dwarf. 1.10 Red Dwarf. 1.45 The Bill. 2.15 The Bill. 2.45 Casualty. 3.55 Shopping at Night.

Discovery

● Astra/Intelsat

8.00 Rex Hunt's Fishing Adventures. 8.30 Top Marques. 9.00 Flightline. 9.30 Jurassica II. 7.00 Wildlife SOS. 7.30 Ultimate Guide: Dogs. 8.30 Arthur C Clarke's Mysterious World. 9.00 The Adventurers. 10.00 Killer Weather. 11.00 Drifts and Spills: Panama Canal. 12.00 Strike Force: Mig 29. 1.00 Flightline. 1.30 Top Marques. 3.30 Adrenalin Rush Hour! Shark Hunters. 6.30 Close.

هكذا من الاصل

Unprecedented appeal by Westminster Abbey musician sacked for alleged financial misconduct

Heath backs axed organist

Madeleine Bunting and Sarah Hall

THE former Tory prime minister Sir Edward Heath will head a list of Establishment figures to endorse Westminster Abbey's sacked organist Martin Neary at an unprecedented appeal hearing this week.

Sir Edward is to be a main character witness for a man he has known for almost 40 years, and who was dismissed for alleged financial misdemeanours amounting to gross misconduct last April.

Other character witnesses are believed to include Frank Field — the former minister for welfare who accused the Dean of Westminster, Wesley Carr, of being "nothing but a bully" when Dr Neary and his wife Penny were suspended in March — John Taylor, the former bishop of Winchester, and Colin Semper, the Abbey's former canon treasurer.

Yesterday, Sir Edward — himself a keen organist and prominent member of the music establishment — confirmed he had provided a witness statement which will be read at the hearing, which is due to start on Wednesday before a retired law lord appointed by the Queen.

But he denied he would be appearing at the appeal, at which reporting is not permitted. "I heve giveo no undertaking to do such a thing. I was told a written statement would be sufficient. We must wait and see if I am required to attend. Quite honestly, I don't know what the court's powers are," he said.

The former prime minister refused to give details of his statement, but said he felt moved by the longevity of their friendship to back the beleagured organist, who was honoured by the Queen for his work on the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales. "When I was at Number 10, he arranged all the music for us, and he married the daughter of my doctor, so I have seen him from very close quarters," said Sir Edward. He added that Dr Neary, whose supporters include the former Tory minister John Gummer and composer John Taverner, had a "substantial" number of prominent backers.

'When I was at No 10, he arranged all the music for us, and married the daughter of my doctor'

Sir Edward Heath on Martin Neary, left

The hearing, to be held at an undisclosed location, will be heard by Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle, at which Dr Neary will argue he was unfairly dismissed. It coincides with the release of a CD of church music by Dr Neary entitled "Perfect Peace".

The CD, which credits Dr Neary as the conductor, features a compilation of previnus recordings of the Abbey choir, and includes all the music heard at the late princess's funeral. Several choristers appear to have been unaware of its existence until they saw it on sale in shops last week.

Dr Neary's departure opened up a Trollopian intrigue, with the dean being attacked for being allegedly dictatorial in his handling of the affair, and Dr Neary accused of running a petty fiefdom, arranging contracts and fees through a private company, Neary Music Ltd.

After his sacking, the organist appealed to the Queen, who is the ultimate authority of Westminister Abbey, which, as a Royal Peculiar is outside the jurisdiction of the Bishop of London. the Queen passed the case to the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine, who in turn has passed it to Lord Jauncey.

The Prime Minister's wife Cherie Booth, QC, appeared for Dr Neary at his dismissal hearing, but Wednesday's appeal will be conducted by a senior member of her Chambers, Patrick Elias, QC.

Libya suspects Lockerbie 'ploy'

Ian Black
Diplomatic Editor

LIBYA will hand over the two men accused of the Lockerbie bombing, but only if it receives guarantees that Holland will be the "last stop" in the legal process, it emerged at the weekend.

In his latest comments on the case, the Libyan leader Colnnel Gaddafy said be suspected the Anglo-American offer of a trial under Scottish law in The Hague was a ploy to transfer the defendants to Britain.

"We are prepared to go tomorrow to the Netherlands, provided that the Netherlands is the last stop in case of acquittal or conviction," he told a rally in the Libyan capital Tripoli.

Col Gadafy, celebrating the 29th anniversary of the coup that brought him to power, said this was not the trial in a third country that Libya had demanded, but a deal "to make the third country a transit point to transfer the accused to Britain."

Foreign Office officials repeated that the offer, announced last month in an attempt to end the long impasse in tha affair, was not negotiable. Any clarification of technical or legal details must be sought through the United Nations secretary-general, they said.

But one clear condition is that the two accused, Abdel Basset Ali al-Megrahi and Lamen Khalifa Fhimah, described as Libyan intelligence agents, serve their sentences in Britain if convicted.

Before this latest twist, diplomats were privately confident that there was more than an even chance of a handover, hinting that two individuals, and not the Libyan state, were on trial for the murder of 270 people on Pan Am flight 103 in December 1988.

Libya would be aware of the precedent of last year's Mykonos trial in Germany in which Iranian agents were convicted of terrorist killings and senior Iranian government officials implicated, yet after protests full diplomatic relations quickly resumed.

Col Gadafy is also under pressure from allies in the Arab League and Organisation of African Unity whn campaigned hard to persuade London and Washington to drop their refusal to compromise over the trial venue.

Michael Parkin outside his gallery in Belgravia, London, which is to close at the end of the year PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK BARRON

Galleries closing as rising rents put pressure on art dealers

Stephen Moss on end of a bohemian outpost as 'fashion' shops take over

ONE of London's longest establishad art dealers, Michael Parkin, is to close his gallery in Belgravia. His decision, coinciding with two other closures nearby, marks the end of the area as a bohemian outpost and underlines the problems which smaller art dealers have faced in the 1990s.

He blamed a variety of factors: difficult trading conditions, the increasing control of the art market by Sotheby's and Christie's, and a hike in rents. He said landlords were deliberately forcing out art dealers to make way for clothes shnps, hairdressers and a proposed supermarket.

Mr Parkin, who is 66, was one of the pioneers of the ITV network, ran the pirate station Radin Caroline in the 1960s, and was married to the novelist Molly Parkin. In 1969 he abandoned the media for the calmer waters of art; his was one of the first commercial galleries to pnt on themed shows.

He specialised in British artists, especially Whistler and his pupils. He said in its heyday the area was filled with galleries, but in the face of competition from shops ahle to pay higher rents they had dwindled.

"Knightsbridge has changed. It's just fashion shops. The sense of a village has gone. There was a great feeling of an artistic mélange, hnt that all went with the start of the recession in 1990."

He will close at the end of the year, and the nearby Sally Hunter gallery will close a few months later. Ms Hunter has also struggled since the crash of the early 1990s: "Most people in the husiness have lost money in the past 10 years. We have new landlords and they have made it plain that their preference is for hairdressers and shoe shops."

London's other traditional hnme for commercial galleries, Mayfair, is also changing. The Roy Miles gallery closed recently, and Godfrey Pilkington, whose Piccadilly Gallery recently moved out of Cork Street, agreed that the husiness was changing. "It seems that some people will huy pictures they don't like because they've heen told they are good."

News in brief

Ecstasy suspected in death of youth

A 16-year-old boy died yesterday outside a nightclub after reportedly taking ecstasy. The teenager had beeo to the After Dark club in South Shields, Tyne and Wear, with four friends, and began to feel unwell later. He was helped to n bench outside to get fresb air. At about 7.30am an emergency call was made from a phone kiosk, and he was taken to the South Tyneside District general hospital, but was dead on arrival.

A spokesman for Northumbria police said witnesses had suggested the youth had takeo ecstasy tablets, but a post mortem examination proved inconclusive. The results of toxicology tests are awaited.

Falling tree kills two

A BRITISH couple working for a travel firm were killed in a freak accident in Spain when a tree fell on their tent as they slept. Belgin Sar, aged 23, from Oswestry and her partner Mark Burroughs, 26, from Griffithstown in Pontypool, South Wales, were fatally injured late on Friday night at the Las Ounas campsite, near Sant Pere Pescador on the Costa Brava.

They were both employees of the Cheshire-based company Eurocamp Travel, whose spokesman said last night: "Eurocamp will be liaising with the local police and the owners of the campsite, to find out how this tragic accident occurred. The Eurocamp area manager has been at the site since early this morning with the campsite owners, the local police and the British consulate."

Drugs haul put at £100m

IRISH police yesterday put the estimated value of a cocaine haul found on board a yacht at about £100 million. More than 300 kilogrammes of the drug have been uncovered oo the Spanish-registered catamaran Gemeos since its arrival at Kinsale, Co Cork, late last week.

Tests found the drug to be of a particularly high quality and the earlier estimate of its value has been increased, making the find the biggest in Irish history. Two men, one British and one Irish, were held for questioning when drug squad officers raided the yacht, but another man escaped.

Straw plea to Mothers' Union

THE Home Secretary Jack Straw will urge more than 2,000 members of the Mothers' Union this week to help the Government in support of the growing nuinber of teenage mothers and single parent families in Britain.

His call to the 120-year-old campaigning organisation, which he will address on Wednesday, is part of the Government's drive to work with agencies committed to improving conditions of family life. His challenge, in what is expected to be a Your Country Needs You style speech, is seen by the Mothers' Union as timely. Britain has the highest rate of teenage pregnancy in western Europe with nearly 9,000 under-16s a year becoming pregnant.

Helpline seeks help

CHILDLINE is to launch a national campaign to combat bullying after the problem was ideotified as the single biggest reason for children ringing for help. More than 20,000 of the 115,000 calls to the helpline in the year ending in April were concerned with bullying.

Bullying makes up 17 per cent of all calls to the charity, a rise of 3 per cent from the previous year. The helpline will today launch a 10-page booklet for parents called Bullying. What Can Parents Do?, giving information on how to tackle it.

The helpline will unveil a fundraising pin badge costing £1 to be sold in shops in an attempt to raise more than £500,000.

MI5 seeks Arabic speakers

MI5 is launching a recruiting drive to attract Arabic speakers, including British Muslims, to monitor the activities of groups with links to the Middle East. "The idea is to recruit people to MI5 with expertise to help the agency gather information about Middle Eastern groups," the Home Office said yesterday.

An MI5 advertisement, which first appeared last month, appeals for new recruits to "translate and transcribe overt and secret information, extracting the vital intelligence, interpreting the content, and rendering it into clear, succinct English". MI5 is seeking people who speak Farsi, Turkish, Punjabi and Urdu as well as Arabic.

Five tickets share £7.1m

FIVE ticket holders woo £1,425,455 million each in Saturday's National Lottery draw. Another 19 tickets matched five numbers and the bonus ball to win £115,421. The winning numbers were 9, 10, 11, 27, 42 and 47, and the bonus number was 8.

Make a Career Jump into Fundraising

A career in fundraising will bring you a whole new set of challenges and rewards — one day you could be organising a sponsored bungee jump, the next finalising a deal with a Blue Chip company. The expansion of the voluntary or not for profit sector has created a wealth of exciting opportunities for skilled marketing professionals in a uniquely fulfilling environment.

To help you make the most of the opportunities available, the Guardian and HR consultancy Charity People have organised a series of seminars for anyone interested in finding out more about working for a charity. In each seminar, speakers from a range of national voluntary organisations will address issues from making the transition from a commercial environment to career development opportunities and salaries. Seminars take place at the Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London, on Monday October 5 and Monday October 19 1998.

Charity People

Tickets cost £12, and can be reserved by calling 0171 636 1006 quoting Reference number 5633A

The Guardian

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The Guardian

EU backs away from free market in Russia

Ian Traynor in Salzburg

THE European Union called for a review of International Monetary Fund policies on Russia yesterday and moved to distance itself from United States prescriptions for continuing free market reforms as the answer to Russia's political and economic crisis.

Criticising the invasion of Russia in the past five years by Western business consultants "with laptops and programmes that cannot be implemented", the Austrian foreign minister, Wolfgang Schüssel, who chaired the two-day meeting of foreign ministers in Salzburg, said senior EU officials would travel to Moscow this week with "a very simple message" — "We want a European model for a socially responsible market economy."

> 'We have a simple message: we want a European model for a socially responsible market economy'

A Russia Declaration agreed after much haggling stressed the importance of "social cohesion and credible and transparent institutions".

"Against this background, the existing programmes of the international financial institutions should be reviewed."

Senior officials from the Group of Seven leading industrialised countries, the World Bank and the European Commission are to meet in London on Saturday to ponder their next moves on the rouble meltdown and the political standoff in Moscow, amid a growing chorus of west European calls for a shift away from free market orthodoxy in Russia.

While the Italian foreign minister, Lamberto Dini, said a moratorium should be called on Russia's foreign debt, the Swedish foreign minister, Lena Hjelm-Wallen, called on the IMF to ease its terms for further credits.

Rudolf Scharping, Germany's shadow foreign minister, who could be in office after the September 27 general elections, said the Russian emergency proved the "monetarist school" had suffered a "heavy defeat".

Germany's foreign minister, Klaus Kinkel, said he, Britain's Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, and Mr Schüssel should go to Moscow. But the proposal was widely dismissed as an electioneering ploy. Instead, senior foreign ministry officials from Britain, Germany and Austria will visit Moscow, as has long been scheduled.

"The EU stands ready to send a troika at ministerial level as soon as practicable to Moscow," the EU said.

There was no point in foreign ministers visiting Moscow until a new government and prime minister were identified, participants said.

The shift away from the IMF's orthodox monetarist prescriptions was summed up by the European Commission president, Jacques Santer, who said the EU was "preoccupied by the social impact" of the Russian crisis.

Denouncing "byena capitalism" in Russia and the "shameless attempts at enrichment" by the new breed of Russian businessman, Mr Schüssel said market reforms successful in post-communist eastern Europe and in Latin America had failed in Russia, which needed a different development model — "perhaps more planning elements and state intervention".

Lucy Ward adds: Britain's Trade Minister, Brian Wilson, has promised that the Government will not "turn its back" on Russia or on British companies trading there.

Mr Wilson, who is to visit St Petersburg this week for a long-planned trade fair, insisted that trade with Russia was important for British jobs. "Hardly one" of the British businessmen from more than 130 companies due to attend had pulled out because of the crisis, he said.

Serb policemen guard ethnic Albanian prisoners in the Kosovan village of Ponorac. US officials have complained to Belgrade about the policy of mass arrests PHOTOGRAPH SRDJAN ILIC

Kosovo crisis worsens as West rows over policy

Ian Traynor in Salzburg

A TRANSATLANTIC row about policy in the Balkans erupted yesterday between the European Union and the United States.

European governments are smarting at strong criticism from Washington that they are *fiddling while Kosovo* burns, and they struggled yesterday to fashion a common and coherent policy towards President Slobodan Milosevic's regime in Belgrade.

Meeting in Salzburg, in Austria, EU foreign ministers warned of an impending humanitarian catastrophe affecting hundreds of thousands in Kosovo as winter approaches, and sought to tighten the screws on the Serbian regime.

But the 15 ministers disagreed on the detail of stronger sanctions, providing more grist to the mill of US contempt for their Balkan policy.

Yesterday the German foreign minister, Klaus Kinkel, *accused the US envoy* to the Balkans, Christopher Hill, of being "cynical and condescending" in pouring scorn on EU attempts to tackle the Kosovo crisis.

Mr Hill had said EU governments were absorbed in "discussions over a united Europe" but refused to lift a finger to stop the bloodletting in the south Serbian province, where the majority Albanian population is fighting paramilitary Serb police and the Yugoslav army.

Hubert Védrine, the French foreign minister, advised Mr Hill to shut up, suggesting a fresh eruption of the transatlantic disputes that characterised Western policy *through the three-year Bosnian* war of 1992-95.

The EU ministers said they had reached a consensus on banning flights by the Yugoslav airline JAT, a decision taken months ago but never implemented. Greece, which had dug in its heels against the ban, gave up its veto, but Britain said it would not implement the ban because of legal agreements with Mr Milosevic's regime.

The meeting received reports from international agencies on the desperate situation of Albanian refugees in Kosovo, predicting a winter emergency and little chance of displaced people being able to return to their homes before winter sets in.

Senior European Commission officials said privately that EU policy on Kosovo was now focused on the aid and relief effort, as it was for most of the Bosnian war, with very mixed results.

Chairing the meeting, the Austrian foreign minister, Wolfgang Schüssel, said 120 villages had been destroyed under Mr Milosevic's scorched-earth strategy, making 300,000 Albanians homeless; 50,000 of them were living in the open.

He called for a stronger international presence in Kosovo, support for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and efforts to return the refugees to their homes.

Jacques Santer, the president of the commission, warned of a "humanitarian disaster".

John Shattuck, the US human rights troubleshooter visiting Kosovo to research reports of atrocities and human rights abuses, said he had contacted Mr Milosevic directly about reports of hundreds of Albanian men being rounded up at gunpoint by Serb forces and taken away.

"These reports are very disturbing," Mr Shattuck said.

The UNHCR has reported that the terrified refugees will not return home until the framework for a settlement has been agreed.

That means a ceasefire between Belgrade and the separatist guerrillas, the withdrawal of Belgrade's security forces and the deployment of international monitors. The EU ministers made similar demands, but unveiled no means to back them up.

Solana points to pro-active role for Nato alliance

Martin Walker in Brussels

A NEW arrangement under which the European Union and the United States share responsibility through Nato for stabilising a region stretching to Russia, the Iranian border and North Africa, will be the core of the alliance's new strategic doctrine.

The doctrine is designed to formalise Nato's role after the cold war and will be agreed at next year's 50th anniversary summit. The first draft has been unveiled by the secretary-general, Javier Solana.

"Europe and North America must stick together. We cannot cope with globalisation if our security approach, or indeed our economic approach, is marked by fragmentation," Mr Solana said in Lisbon at the weekend.

Citing the Caucasus and Balkans as areas of potential conflict where Nato "cannot remain aloof", he said: "Our work in building security and stability throughout the wider Euro-atlantic region is not finished."

He added: "Our security policies must become increasingly pro-active. From preventive military deployments to economic assistance, there are many tools we have at our disposal."

He cited examples of preventive military exercises. But economic assistance is beyond Nato's powers, which suggests that closer co-operation with the EU is envisaged.

Party anger increases Clinton's isolation

Martin Kettle in Washington

THE White House was struggling to keep control of a mounting mood of political anger and electoral panic in Bill Clinton's Democratic Party yesterday. A lengthening line of party leaders queued up to criticise the president's handling of the Monica Lewinsky affair.

Mr Clinton returned from his visit to Russia and Ireland with his advisers speculating that the report on the Lewinsky affair by the independent counsel, Kenneth Starr, will now be much more sexually explicit and personally "blistering" as a result of the president's grand jury testimony last month.

While Mr Clinton plans a week of aggressive promotion of a "business as usual" agenda, visiting schools in Maryland, promoting equal opportunities in Florida, and announcing new consumer protection proposals, the White House's top strategists are waging a major political fire-fighting exercise in Congress. The legislature resumes tomorrow after its summer break, and an increasing number of Democrats are distancing themselves from Mr Clinton as they prepare for the November 3 mid-term elections.

Following last Thursday's powerful attack by the Connecticut senator, Joseph Lieberman, in which he accused Mr Clinton of immoral conduct and called for some form of "public rebuke", several other prominent Democrats also attacked the president. Among the latest are Senators Christopher Dodd (Connecticut), Bob Graham (Florida) and Carol Moseley-Braun and Richard Durbin (Illinois).

Mr Clinton had "beaten up on himself pretty bad" over the scandal, said the White House chief-of-staff, Erskine Bowles, yesterday. Exemplifying the administration's new strategy of contrition, Mr Bowles added: "It's painful when a friend gives you justifiable criticism."

Typical of the swell of support for Mr Lieberman was a statement from Senator Mary Landrieu of Lousiana commending the speech as "appropriate and timely" as well as "difficult but right".

Maryland's Democratic governor, Parris Glendening, who is facing a strong Republican challenge in November, cancelled an invitation to Mr Clinton to attend a $1000-a-head fundraising event in the state on October 2, saying the president's actions were "wrong, inappropriate and demanding of a sincere, major apology". Party fundraisers in New York and Florida were reported to be weighing similar moves.

Mr Lieberman said yesterday that many members of Congress who have not spoken publicly have privately congratulated him on last week's speech. "Everyone is profoundly troubled by this," he said.

Mark Mellman, the Democratic pollster, warned against an over-reaction in the wake of Mr Lieberman's speech and Mr Clinton's statement in Dublin that he was sorry for his affair with the former White House intern. "I think there's a certain amount of unjustified panic setting in," Mr Mellman said.

Another senior official, David Leland, chairman of the Ohio Democratic Party, said resignation talk "is way, way, way too premature. The president has done a good job of being president and we should support him".

Senior Congress members from both parties will meet on Wednesday to discuss the procedures for dealing with Mr Starr's report. The House of Representatives Speaker, Newt Gingrich, and the House Democratic leader, Richard Gephardt, said they hoped to agree an all-party procedure for assessing the report, which is expected later this month.

Speculation about Mr Starr's report is mounting daily. Some sources claim that the report will be more than 1,000 pages long, while others put the figure closer to 300. Mr Starr is expected to focus his report entirely on the Lewinsky affair. This means Mr Clinton would no longer face accusations arising from the Whitewater land deal or any of the other issues which Mr Starr has covered in his four-year investigation.

Polls set Malta on EU course

John Hooper in Malta

MALTA'S experiment in government by a New Labour-style party was cut short at the weekend when Alfred Sant, the Blairite leader of Malta's Labour Party (MLP), was swept from power less than two years after becoming prime minister.

The Nationalist Party victory puts the island back on the road to full membership of the European Union. Eddie Fenech Adami, the Nationalist leader, is committed to resubmitting the island's application, which was frozen by Dr Sant.

Mr Fenech Adami, said: "The first thing I am going to do is to inform the EU that the Maltese people want membership."

The final results of Saturday's snap general election are not expected until later today. But Dr Sant conceded to reporters last night that the Nationalist Party had won an absolute majority.

Unofficial estimates showed the right-of-centre nationalists were heading for what, by Maltese standards, will be a huge majority of five seats in the 69-seat parliament. Officials reported a turnout of 95 per cent.

The outcome represents an extraordinary triumph for Dom Mintoff, the controversial 82 year-old former prime minister, who bowed out at the start of the campaign after 51 years in parliament.

Mr Mintoff forced Dr Sant to call an election two years into his five-year term when he broke with the MLP leadership over a scheme to redevelop part of the Grand Harbour.

There were early indications that one of the seats lost by the MLP was in the multi-seat constituency which was Mr Mintoff power base.

Mr Fenech Adami, a lawyer, was prime minister from 1987 to 1996. In its efforts to prepare the island for EU membership, his government introduced value added tax — a move seen as decisive in his defeat two years ago.

News in brief

Kabila arrives for talks on ending war

CONGO'S president, Laurent Kabila, arrived in Zimbabwe yesterday for talks aimed at ending civil war and foreign intervention in the former Zaire. The summit, to be hosted today by President Robert Mugabe, includes Mr Kabila's military allies — Zimbabwe, Angola and Namibia — and Rwanda, Uganda and the rebel leaders.

Mr Kabila declined to talk to the press on arrival, and was whisked away in a heavily guarded motorcade. He accuses Rwanda and Uganda of sending their armies to back Congolese Tutsis who launched a rebellion in the east of the country last month. Mr Mugabe said the summit would focus on a ceasefire and the withdrawal of foreign troops. His officials said it would not try to resolve the political and ethnic difficulties that underlie the rebellion. — *Reuters, Victoria Falls.*

Anwar says brother arrested

MALAYSIA'S sacked finance minister, Anwar Ibrahim, said yesterday that the authorities had arrested his adopted brother in what he claimed was a crackdown. He told more than 1,000 supporters outside his home in the capital Kuala Lumpur that his secretary was to be arrested soon. He added that he would begin a national tour on Wednesday to press for political reform.

The prime minister, Mahathir Mohamad, sacked Dr Anwar last Wednesday. Although he gave no reason, cabinet ministers said it was because Dr Anwar was being investigated for sexual misconduct, treason and other crimes. Speculation has mounted that he will be arrested. — *Reuters, Kuala Lumpur.*

Black-box search hampered

CANADIAN divers scoured the ocean floor off Novia Scotia yesterday for data recorders from Swissair Flight 111 which crashed into the Atlantic last week killing all 229 people on board. They were hampered by rough weather and the limited time divers could spend at 190ft below the surface.

The director of operations, Roger Girouard, said the US navy was sending a salvage ship to help in the search for debris and bodies. It was expected to arrive by Wednesday.

Divers looking for the flight data and cockpit voice recorders have narrowed the search to an area with a radius of 75 yards, after a submarine detected a signal from one of the black boxes on Friday. — *Reuters, Peggy's Cove.*

Prague bomb hurts tourists

TWO tourists suffered minor injuries when a bomb exploded yesterday in a street in Prague's old town, police said. A Spaniard and a Dutch woman were slightly injured when the bomb, planted in a rubbish bin, went off in Jilska Street. Several windows and a car were damaged. Police said it was not immediately clear who had planted the device. — *AP, Prague.*

Pope's horoscope warning

THE Pope warned Catholics yesterday not to put their faith in horoscopes and magic. He told pilgrims and tourists at his weekly address at his summer residence in Castelgandolfo to plan their lives by looking to God rather than the stars.

"Horoscopes and magic predictions don't do anything. What is needed instead is prayer, real prayer, which should be coupled with leading a life that conforms to God's law," he said. Horoscopes are carried daily by nearly all the country's television and radio news bulletins. — *Reuters, Castelgandolfo.*

Critics lose no time dunking comic-strip Proust

Jon Henley in Paris

THE original contains more than a million words of magisterial prose. Hailed as the greatest book of the century and the finest work of psychological, philosophical and sociological understanding ever published, it is probably the most revered novel in the French language.

So Stéphane Heuet, a former naval painter and art director of an advertising agency, must have known he would provoke outrage when he decided to turn Marcel Proust's seven-volume masterpiece, A la Recherche du Temps Perdu, into a comic strip.

"Marcel is being assassinated!" the angust author *and Le Figaro critic Hervé* de Saint-Hilaire cried after last week's publication of what Mr Heuet hopes will be the first of 11 annual Proust cartoon books.

"This is a shocking enterprise." Mr Saint-Hilaire went on. "Prodigious in its creative inanity ... Let us avoid the word blasphemy, pass over the superficial treatment of one of the greatest texts in our literary canon ... No, this is cruelty and catastrophe combined."

The Nouvel Observateur critic Laure Garcia said Mr Heuet had ridden like a steamroller over the novel's brilliant metaphor and dense imagery, reducing subtle evocations of time and memory to a "clumsy travesty, complete with speech bubbles and *naively explicit drawings*".

But Combray, the first volume of the series, is selling like hot madeleines, despite what one traditionalist described as the "all but sacrilegious" depiction (left) of the scene in which the taste of the famous little cake dipped in lime-blossom tea triggers the narrator's childhood memories.

The critical response to Mr Heuet's work might not have surprised Proust, who died in 1922 at the age of 61 having completed his masterpiece in the cork-lined room to which he had withdrawn almost completely 15 years earlier.

> 'The world would be a better place if everyone had read Marcel Proust'

A reader at one publishing house to which he submitted the first 712 pages reported: "After innumerable griefs at being drowned in unfathomable developments and irritating impatience at never being able to rise to the surface, one doesn't have a clue, not a single clue of what this is about".

Mr Heuet, who spent two years researching the project, making countless drawings of the scenes and buildings around the small town of Illiers-Combray and digging into archives to ensure that every detail of clothing was correct, seems unperturbed by the modern critics' response.

"The only crime I admit to is the crime of every adaptation: imposing your own images on characters that everyone feels they own," he said.

"There are millions of people who die without ever experiencing the greatness of this work because they can't get past the first 50 pages. This is aimed at them."

Unlike the Monty Python team, which staged an All-England Summarise Proust Competition in which contestants were given 15 seconds to explain the novel, Mr Heuet believes Proust is worth taking time over.

"The world would be a better place if everyone had read him," he said.

"There would be more kindness. I hope my work encourages more people to read further."

"One of the charms of the Commonwealth Games is that they are full of sportsmen and women who are not serialising their books in the Sun."
Julie Welch comments

Sport, page 19

هكذا من الأصل

Migrants blocked from US cities risk death in desert

Phil Gunson in Mexico City

MEXICANS trying to cross illegally into the United States are dying in unprecedented numbers. Immigrant rights groups blame a policy designed to drive them from crossing points in the towns and cities on to remote desert routes, where many die of heatstroke.

On Thursday a man's body was found in the desert near Plaster City and a woman's was recovered from the All-American irrigation canal, which crosses the border, bringing the recorded deaths this year in the California border area alone to 107. The previous weekend three bodies were recovered from the desert west of the border town of Calexico, and another two from the canal.

Along the 2,000 miles of border about 170 have died this year, roughly one death every 36 hours. Last year's total was 130.

The rise has been inexorable since October 1994, when the border patrol launched Operation Gatekeeper in San Diego. Similar operations were started in Arizona and Texas.

A patrol spokesman, Salvador Zamora, said the "number one goal" was to prevent migrants entering illegally through central San Diego and San Isidro — formerly the most popular crossings.

The number of border guards has been hugely increased, and they now use military-style tactics. Steel fences, sensors and stadium-type lights are also used to deter the migrants.

Steel fences, sensors and stadium lights are now helping the patrols

There is no pretence that the overall flow of undocumented migrants has been affected. An estimated 300,000 still cross each year.

The difference is that they run a greater risk of dying, and have to pay guides — — *polleros* up to $1,000 (£625).

"The object is not to reduce the number of migrants," said Victor Clark of the Binational Human Rights Centre in Tijuana. "Operations like Gatekeeper are aimed at satisfying idaological damands from conservative groups for border control."

He says the biggest impact of the current policy — apart from the sharp increase in deaths — has been to turn the *polleros'* business into a thriving branch of organised crime.

"*Pollero* cartels like the one known as Los Peralta in Tijuana have the capacity to take as many as 100 people across the border every day," he said. "If they're charging an average of $1,000, imagine the money they're making and the power they have to corrupt the authorities."

Record-breaking temperatures this year have added to the danger for those trying to cross. Daytime highs in Imperial Valley, California, have averaged 44C in the shade — and there is precious little shade.

Not all the deaths are due to heatstroke, however. A significant minority drown while trying to swim across irrigation canals, which can be 20ft deep and are often fast-flowing. Others have been killed in high-speed chases by border guards.

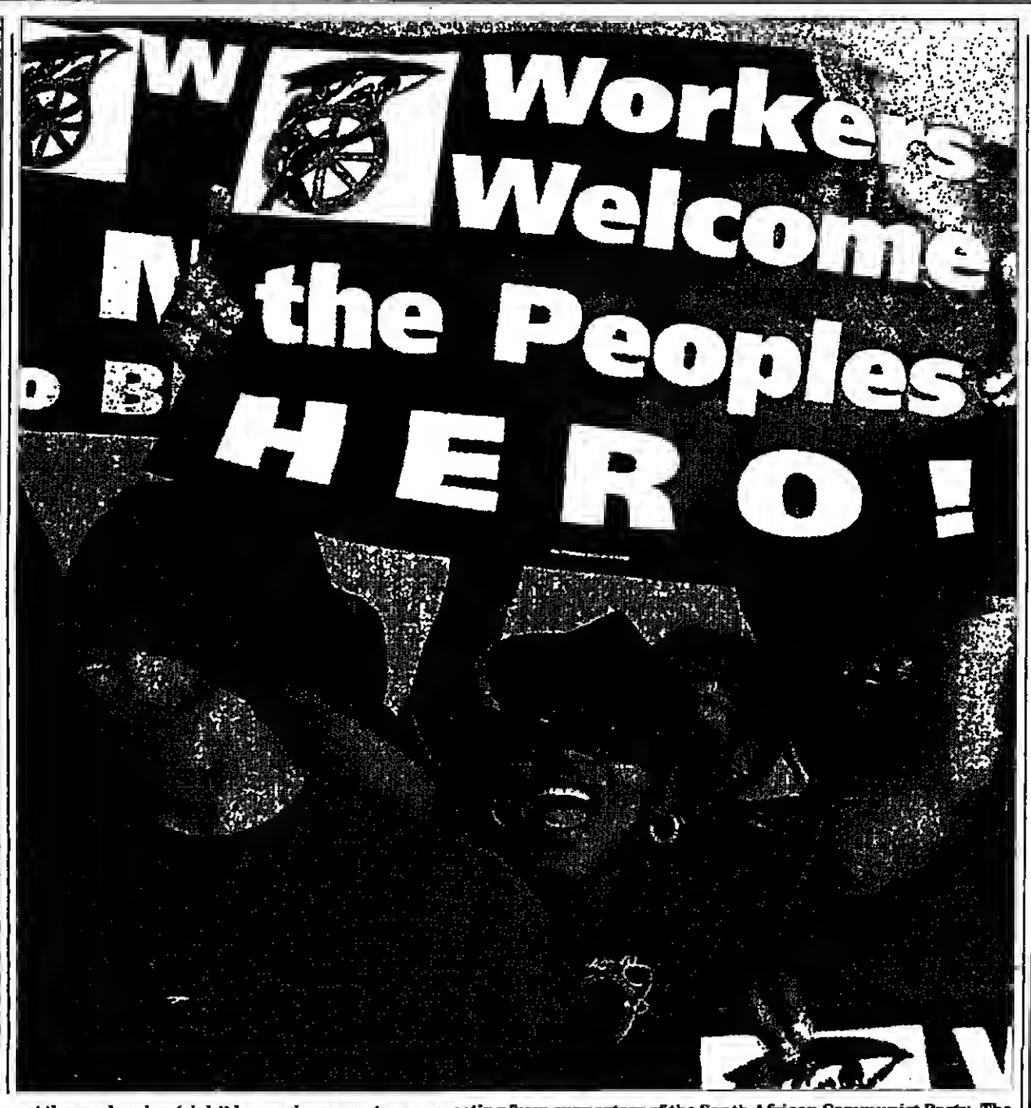
The authorities are trying to dissuade migrants from nsing desert rontes, and rescue them when they get into trouble.

"It's a policy that's firm, but not cold," Mr Zamora said.

The Mexican foreign ministry is running a campaign to highlight the risks, putting warning signs near popular crossing points. Bnt few migrants appear to be aware of it.

Activists say that as loog as big inequalities of income persist, the flow of migrants will continue. "Signs won't stop desperate people," said Mr Clark.

The border fence extends into the Pacific Ocean at Tijuana. Along the 2,000-mile border the death toll is on the rise as tougher policies force Mexicans tu use remote desert routes to cross into the US PHOTOGRAPH: LENNY IGNELZI



Fidel Castro takes Sowetans on a two-hour tour of the cosmos at the weekend as (right) he receives a rapturous greeting from supporters of the South African Communist Party. The Cuban leader laid a wreath at a memorial to Hector Peterson, reputedly the first child killed in the police suppression of the 1976 Soweto uprising PHOTOGRAPHS: JUDA NGWENYA

Sowetans warm to the wise words of the Cuban lion

David Beresford in Johannesburg sees Fidel Castro offer words of comfort at a memorial to the 1976 uprising

"CASTRO is a lion," sang the South African Communist Party choir, as Fidel in his military fatigues clambered from a Mercedes in Soweto. Although at 71 he is a somewhat aged king of the jungle, the comparison seemed a fair one as the grizzled mane and beard moved towards the closest thing this country has to the tomb of the unknown warrior.

South Africa saw a concatenation of heads of state at the summit of non-aligned cnnntries last week, hut there was nu doubt who was the most popular foreign leader. President Nelsun Mandela was said to have been refused 10 extra seats for guests in the stampede to hear the Cuban president address parliament on Friday.

Tha Democratic Party and the rlgbtwlng Freedom Front boycotted the speech, but the crowded gallery was treated to a view of capitalism about to collapse and a global economy transformed into an "enormous casinu".

Necessity has made Sowetans more phlegmatic and less sensitive to predictions of financial Armageddon. But about 2,000 gathered on Saturday to chant "Castro, Castro, Castro" with the enthusiasm of teenagers cheering a rock idol.

After laying a wreath and solemnly saluting at a roadside shrine that stands as a memorial to Hector Peterson — reputedly the first child to die under police guns in the 1976 uprising — Dr Castro made his way to the speakers' platform, surrounded by bodyguards.

Mathole Motshekga, the premier of Gauteng — the country's richest province — was there to greet him. Mr Motshekga bas been under a cloud after allegations that he was an apartheid-era spy for South African military intelligence.

He introduced the Cuban leader with a ringing announcement that in Dr Castro, President Mandela and the South African deputy president, Thabo Mbeki, the world had "the greatest political prophets of our time".

Dr Castru began diffidently. "I've not come to make a speech, I've come to talk to you for a while," he said. "A speech would have to take a long time . . ."

There followed two hours of one-sided conversation, a bravura performance in which the lilting Spanish of the president and the majestic English of his famale interpreter interwove with the ease of an operatic duo.

Dr Castro brooded on the destruction of the great library at Alexandria. He reflected un what wuuld have happened to the Spanish conquistadors and their 12 horses if Christopher Columbns in his cunfused search for India had landed in a China full of horses instead of Latin America.

> 'If Einstein had been born Hector Peterson, would the theory of relativity have ever been discovered?'

"The 12 Spanish horses would have been nothing; they would have disappeared in a matter of seconds!"

A tour of the cosmos ensued. Ruminating on the irony that Venus was named after the Goddess of love — "400 degrees of heat and actually at that temperature there is no way you can make love" — he touched briefly on the barrenness of Mars before landing back on Earth with a thump, concinding that it was clear this was the unly popnlated planet, so even those who suffered extremes of poverty needed to be persuaded of the environmentalist cause if mankind were to survive.

He swept on with a history of slavery, which led in turn to reminiscences of when a $10 greenback was worth $10 in gold.

"Today", he declared indignantly, "they are buying the richness uf the world with paper!"

Marvelling at the mastery of mathematics of those who built the pyramids, he asked: "If Einstein had been hurn Hector Peterson, would the theory of relativity bave ever heen discovered?"

After confiding that his sizeable retinue of bodyguards reflected the long history of attempts to kill him, Dr Castro delivered a successioo at swipes at President Bill Clinton, including ridicule of his use of four US helicopters to take him the 12 miles from Cape Town to Robben Island.

Aghast at the scope of US "imperialism" — "even in India and China they are drinking Coca-Cula and Pepsi Cola [and eating McDonald's] hamburgers," he said in wonderment — he cnnclnded "You bave apartheidwhen you have a world of the rich and a world of the poor."

Iran rules out Taliban strike

David Sharrock
Middle East Correspondent

THE threat of a war in the Middle East receded yesterday when Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, ruled out an invasion of neighbouring Afghanistan.

The ayatollah, commander-in-chief of Iran's 500,000-strong armed forces, said there would be "no confrontatiou with Talibau", the Tehran Times reported.

Tension has ariseo between the two countries since 11 Iranian diplomats were allegedly killed wheu Talibao fighters overran the Afghan opposition stronghnld Mazar-i-Sharif last month.

Tehran accuses the Taliban of seizing 47 Iranians when its forces captured the northern city on August 8, but the Taliban militia says it knows nothing about the 11 diplomats, and has freed five Iranian truck drivers.

A member of an Iranian delegatiou who travelled to Afghanistan last week said their mission was only to find and retrieve the remains of the diplomats.

The Tehran Times report was the first account of the ayatollah's remarks, which tha newspaper said were made on Thursday.

The Iranian government is dominated by Shi'ita clarics. The Taliban, who control most of Afghanistan, follow a purist interpretation of Islam's dominant Sunni faith.

The prospect of an Iranian military strike against the Taliban appeared to rise on Saturday when the state-run Tehran radio said Iran had the right under interoatinnal law to take all actinn necessary in connection with the diplomats' disappearance.

Iran sent 70,000 troops tn its north-east region last week for manoeuvres close to the Afghan border. It said the bulk of them would remain in the area.

Hardline conservative publications in Iran support a strike, while most moderate dailies advocate self-restraint.

The Tehran Times dismissed claims that tension on the Afghan border could lead to open conflict.

"Despite the fact that Iran is quite ready in all respects to meet any eventuality, pundits here do not foresee any military clash with Taliban," it said.

Reports of the conduct of the Taliban's fighters in Mazar-i-Sharif cootinue to filter out.

One of the freed drivers told Iranlau television: "They pointed guns at our chests and insisted we were carrying weapons. We showed them our documents and our goods but they still wouldn't believe us."

Another said: "The situatioo was wild. Everyooe was running away and everyone was scared, and I myself saw the Taliban approaching the [Iranian] consulate."

Rights petition for China envoy

John Gittings in Beijing

MARY ROBINSON, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, has arrived in Beijing with cautious expectations of a difficult visit, as Chinese dissidents urge her to denounce imprisonment without trial.

She said yesterday that she would sign a memorandum with China oo future co-operatioo, but was keen to ensure it produced results.

She also hopes to find more information about China's adherence to the UN Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Beijing has said it will sign the treaty but bas not revealed when.

A petition by 100 Chinese human activists, issued through Hong Kong yesterday, asks Ms Rohinson to urge China to end "re-education through labour". This allows police to detain anyone accused of anti-social behaviour for up to three years without trial.

It has been used against many dissidents as well as hundreds of thousands of ordinary Chinese.

Ms Robinson's visit was preceded by lengthy negotiations, particularly over her intended visit to Tibet, where human rights groups fear the Chinese may exploit her presence.

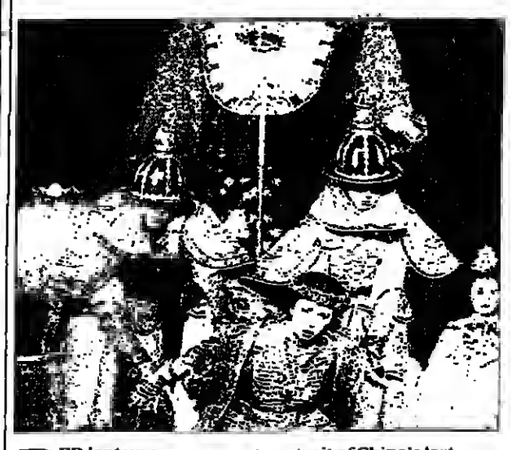
There is concern about a possible visit to the main prison at Drapchi in Lhasa. During a visit by European Union ambassadors in May, o protest by inmates is believed to have led to several being killed — although the ambassadors noticed nothing.

A spokesperson for Amnesty International has urged Ms Rohinson to find out what really happeoed in May.

She has not been helped by President Bill Clintoo or the British government. Both have claimed credit for her invitation to Beijing — to justify a shift towards a softer policy on Chinese human rights.

On Friday Beijing released a Chinese television producer with the United States network CBS News who had been detained for two days.

East meets West in Forbidden City



RED lanterns were raised this weekend over Beijing's Forbtdden City in a spectacnlar prodnction nf Puccini's npera Turandot (in which the slave girl Liu is seen tortured above), which has huilt a new cultural bridge between the West and China, *writes John Gittings in Beijing*.

Its director, the filmmaker Zhang Yimou, said: "Although it ts a Western opera, I am Chinese and it will he a Chinese production."

Performed by the Florence Opera Honse and condncted by Zubin Mehta, the upera has caught the imagination of Beijingers. Mr Zhang, best known for Red Sorghum and Raise the Red Lantern, evokes natiunal pride.

But the premiere un Saturday, beneath a full moon, was nut fur ordinary locals. Placards advertising free Moët & Chandon hung from marble balustrades for foreigners and rich Chinese VIPs.

They had paid between £240 and £830 for their first-night tickets. Two cheaper performances have long been sold out in advance.

Outside in Tiananmen Square the usual crowd on hicycles or on foot watched the national flag being lowered in front of the portrait nf China's last emperor, Mao Zedoog, flew kits and bought lollipops.

The two worlds mingled briefly as npera-goers in dinner jackets nr Imperial gowns walked past.

Inside, the tale of an earlier emperor's daughter, Turandot, was set on the steps nf the 15th-century temple where sacrifices were made tu the ancestors.

The production brilliantly exploited this vast space, with 80 yards uf plinth and marble staircase. A black-hatted chorus represented the peopic of Beijing, and a crimson spotlight lit the pavilion in which the suitor who fails to answer the princess's riddles is executed.

More than 350 cast and staff from Florence are joined in Beijing by 600 Chinese participants.

The maiu roles are alternating between two or three soloists, giving more singers a chance tu perfurm in the Imperial City. On the first night Sharon Sweet sang Turandut, with Kristjan Johannsson as the hero Calaf and Barhara Hendricks as Lin.

The audience filtered uut next tu the Gate uf Heavenly Peace. There are no longer any sedan chairs, but pedicabs were waiting to take them tn their hotels.

PHOTOGRAPH: GREG BAKER

Comment

e-mail

Patrice de Beer @London

AFTER four years in the United Kingdom as Le Monde's correspondent, I am still bewildered by the way the British exaggerate when talking politics. I have come to realise that (like we French), the government is either too good, or too bad to be true.

Blairism is perhaps the first to have found the right approach to Thatcherism in adopting the good and discarding the bad. But after having initially applauded everything Tony Blair said, you tend to stress now only the dark side of things.

Yet New Labour's pragmatism deserves credit: Blair for his constitutional agenda and his courage on Northern Ireland, as well as for his new vision of Europe; the Chancellor for his bold view on economic and social reforms.

Margaret Thatcher destroyed some of Britain's bad old habits, but she clung to outmoded traditions as if one could build an economy for the 21st century with 19th century structures. She confused Britain with the world and Little England with the UK.

Devolution and constitutional reforms will probably change Britain more than any reform since the Victorian era. At the same time, Europe has stopped being the battlefield where British politicians bleed each other — and their country — to death.

As a European, I can't help feeling some sympathy for Blair: he is probably the first true European leader in Britain. I don't mean pro-European, but European, i.e. someone who feels European; even if his vision of the Continent — of which Britain has, after all, always been a part — is different from ours and can be judged too slow or irritating.

He wants, as we quickly found out, to protect British interests, but he understands that Europe is not divided into two irreconcilable halves of "us" and "the Continent".

Although the patronising, moralistic and quasi-religious overtone of Blair's social policy can be at times unbearable, if not repulsive, its pragmatism is a lesson for many.

But the Thatcher legacy can't be reversed overnight. How many more months will Labour continue to fudge its promise of an universal and decent minimum wage?

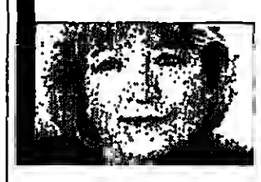
It won't be easy to do away with the boom and bust, short-termist economy which has shown that it can create more jobs than any other European country but still has to prove that it can control unemployment in times of recession. The new economic policy will face its baptism of fire with the coming slump.

Britain is now becoming interesting to watch. It is becoming more European. And one day Britain might even understand that, just as it still has much to show us, it also has a lot to learn from us.

Parroting Reagan's or Clinton's America is not an end in itself!

Abolish the monarchy, to free us from this obsession with idolatry

Polly Toynbee



WHEN Demos, the think-tank closest to Tony Blair, started work on their radical pamphlet on the future of the monarchy, no doubt they judged it would be well-timed, in the aftermath of the Diana anniversary. For many, it may fall into a well of utter exhaustion with anything royal. Enough, enough!

We may be Diana'd out, the princes may have called for no more, but there the monarchy is, a bizarre outpost of our political system that pre-occupies our national life to the point of utter insanity. In the days when the monarchy was dull and distant, dimly glimpsed in their kilts in the mists of Balmoral, they seemed unimportant. They were a piece of furniture, like a mahogany sideboard so drearily familiar we had long since stopped noticing its existence. In the real world where serious things were done, there were better things to worry about than their defunct powers. Bagehot's "dignified" part of the constitution would surely continue to fade gracefully into irrelevance.

Then came Diana, neither dull nor dignified. Her celebrity brought them back to centre stage, an epic drama unfolding before our eyes, fascinating in its banality, a public tragi-comedy that gave them back their full iconic status. Obsession gripped the nation as never before in post-war memory: Principe Tampax (as he was called in the Italian press) and Squidgy seemed to present a dysfunctional mirror of a dysfunctional society. They were, of course, nothing of the kind, nor is modern society especially dysfunctional, but that became the modern myth; royalty again as a symbol of our times.

It was not their behaviour that turned me republican: they are as free as the rest of us to behave as they choose, with all its consequences. It was the effect on the nation that makes it important now to end this infantile charade. Such fascination with such irrelevance turns us again into subjects, obliged to contemplate daily in detail the doings of people who have nothing to do with us, still less our national self-image.

Royalty and its trappings drag us back to a fantasy vision of who and what the country is. The glorious pageantry mocks all attempts at "modernising" and "rebranding" Britain, filling us with false ideas of our place in the world as the sons and daughters of empire, Bluff King Hal and Good Queen Bess, all heritage, no real history. If all glory and honour is vested in the past, the future can only seem like a continuing downward trajectory. So perhaps it's not surprising that the authors of the Demos pamphlet on rebranding the country — a theme avidly taken up by Blair — have turned their thoughts to rebranding the monarchy.

There is not, they assert, any evidence that the people want to abolish the crown, but there is discontent with the way the monarchy is run. So they propose radical reforms which have already attracted outraged front-page headlines in the Mail. (The head of Demos, Geoff Mulgan, works inside Number 10's policy unit.) Most dramatic of their proposals is for an "affirmative referendum" before each new monarch is crowned, requiring majority support. They also propose the crown should no longer appoint prime ministers and judges, dissolve parliament or give Royal Assent to new Bills. The royal household would become a civil service department and the monarch would no longer head the Church of England. A hiccuping monarchy would use the NHS and state schools.

One of the authors, Tim Hames, is a Conservative political theorist, Times leader writer and author of right-wing pamphlets. No republican he. They say reform is the only way to save the crown. However, as the Mail rightly spots, much of this is more likely to destroy it. If these ideas take root, then in future times historians may look back and mark this down as one of the stations on the road to abolition.

FOR once you start to apply much reason — let alone democracy — to the crown, the thing falls apart in your hands. Charles will be next king because of his genes and for no other reason. If we are obsessed with the extra-marital doings of the royals, there is for once, good reason: breeding is their purpose in life. If we were to start voting, it would raise the dangerous question, why him? Why not someone else? Once the debate was begun in the run-up to a referendum, there might be no stopping it. Would republicans get equal time for pre-referendum broadcasts?

Until now there has been no senior politician, let alone a party, willing to discuss the issue, so there has been no debate. We employ politicians to hammer out the main issues of the day, but increasingly they fail to offer us choice on pressing questions argued out in every bar and pub in the country, from the legalisation of cannabis to the abolition of the monarchy. So we should look with some doubt at current opinion poll findings: they might change if public debate began.

Demos's polling finds a demand for reform: a majority think the Queen's residual political powers should be removed. But an overwhelming majority want the monarchy to stay. An ICM poll recently found, however, that 52 per cent of the people thought the country would be no worse without it. That is a remarkable shift since 1994, when 70 per cent thought the country would do worse without it. So opinion is volatile.

Reform along the lines proposed would remove some pressing reasons for abolition. Reform would start an institutional revolution inside the darkest, least democratic corridors of power: if the crown no longer appointed judges, for instance, there would be an open debate on who should. But one overriding republican argument would remain: Abolition would free us from our national idolatrous obsession with these people. It may not be the royal family's fault — they too decry it — but we are reduced to absurd primitivism in our national fascination with such trivia. It makes us the laughing stock of the world. It diminishes and infantilises us in our own eyes. Given the chance to vote on it, the people might well decide it was time to put away these childish things and grow up.

Breaking news

Peter Preston

YOU might suppose, the way this argument is going, that news was some foul-tasting medicine. Take one tablet at six, one at nine — and the big pink one at 10 before retiring (Family doctors warned: beware over-prescription of 24-hour news). So somebody at ITV has a fresh box of pills and various regulatory nurses debate whether it's better or worse.

But television news is much more complicated than that — and the lather over News at Ten dangerously simplistic. Nobody is concentrating on the questions that matter most: Should a nation have a national news agenda? And can it be a nation without one? Questions to be pondered with a wall of the pipes in the background.

The central point about public service broadcasting — and the obligations it involves — does not really concern timing. The market (in advertising and audience ratings) can be left to see when we want to sup from this common agenda. The point is that it should be available, and properly resourced. Otherwise the whole concept of public service implodes: which is why the BBC is squarely stuck in this frame, too.

At the moment, Jill Dando and Michael Buerk and Trevor MacDonald speak to the nation. The news they read from London is *the* news, the news of Britain. The regions, broadly defined, get their fix later. There is a natural logic to this settlement. It says that we are one country and that here, in winnowed consensus, are the things that should most involve us. You may agree or disagree, item by item: but this is a national choice by the dominant news medium of the day.

Of course, everyone does it that way, don't they? The United States may be a vast and fissiparous country, but ABC and CBS and NBC wrap the flag of unity around their national bulletins. They speak to Atlanta and Anchorage from the same basic script. It would not occur to our European partners — Germany, France, Italy, the lot — to go any other way. For a brief, designated while every evening the citizens get their agenda.

Yet consider that settlement, even next year, in the context of Scottish devolution. In one sense, the sense of Labour's reformers unveiling their wheeze to keep Britain whole and ramming an Edinburgh assembly through the Commons, it doesn't sound very exciting. The Scots had their own legal and educational system already. Here are a few more things on top. BBC Scotland (long semi-devolved) already runs its own *McToday* radio show and Scottish ITV has its network opt-outs. Carry on fiddling around the edges.

BUT such gentle accretion, like so much else about devolution, was always a dream: and the moment of awakening approaches fast. The Nats are on a roll. Labour is struggling to hold back that insurgency (and this weekend re-launching itself with a new name and sundry kilted trappings). There is a tartan revolution under way. And what's the first thing that happens in a modern revolution? Quite. The rival troops head for the television station.

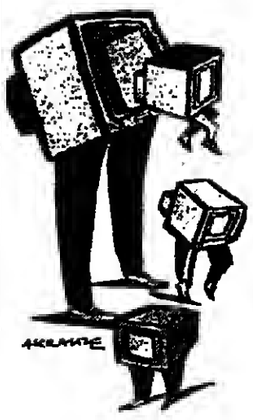
Consider the skirl of the argument. Scotland has its own elected chief minister and representatives taking the decisions that matter (as Blair is wont to say) on health and housing and transport, the things ordinary people care about. How can broadcasting be blithely left aside? How can BBC Scotland just be some surgically enhanced regional division in future, ruled from Langham Place by the unelected duo of Bland and Birt? It must have freedoms to match those of the assembly; its own director-general. It must reflect, as a public service, the wishes and interests of the Scottish people.

You can hear the words on Alex Salmond's lips already; and you can feel the tug of the debate as, over time, they come to dominate Donald Dewar's mind too (if he makes it to first chief minister). There has to be huge broadcasting autonomy for Scotland. The BBC controller in Scotland has to be able to answer to the assembly members (and their committees) without reference to central bureaucracy at Broadcasting House. He cannot be a messenger boy. The producers and directors around him will not only see this, but act accordingly. Their long-term interests will lie in Scotland, not 500 miles further south. Salmond and Dewar will intrinsically be offering them the chance to be masters in their own manse. Who doubts which way they will go?

And the flagship, inevitably, is the first symbol of that battle. What price the national news at six, seven, nine or 10? Who, in Aberdeen, cares what David Blunkett is doing about primary school class sizes in England? Who cares about Frank Dobson's waiting list travails in London or Bristol? Who cares what Tony Blair told William Hague at Question Time?

Such things will not seem to matter in Scotland because, in brute practicality, they do not matter. They will make no difference to playgrounds or hospitals in Scotland. On a stretching list of policies across the agenda, the words of the chief minister can — and must — count for more than those of a distant, peripheral English prime minister. Therefore there can be no national news, nor Jill and Anna doing their familiar stuff. The basic bulletins will have to be blended and broadcast from north of the border.

Thus the definition of a nation — in its most obvious, defining way — will change utterly. The Scottish agenda that ripples in complementary form through the newspapers and the talk shows will become the establishment agenda. A seismic shift and hat-full of ironies.



Scottish television must have the same freedoms granted to the assembly

Broadcasters, because they're journalists, see the ironies clearly. The licence payers of Scotland do not, even now, finance the service they get from the BBC. It is English licences that keep them afloat on present provision. It is English money that will pay the Scottish teams to cover the Scottish assembly for Scotland. What it is far more difficult to see is how anyone makes sense of this first, bitter tangle.

We begin with autonomy and fair words. We move to an unsteady state where the staples of information are crucially different, without that common agenda. No prizes for guessing what comes next.

I was watching the Oval Test the other day and something stopped play. We did not see, and were not told, what was going on. Streakers — in a left-over dribble of Thatcher prurience — are neither shown nor referred to, even though 30,000 people are howling them on.

Television has the potty power to deem that things do not exist. Keep tuned for the moment when it deems that there is no United Kingdom.

Truth marches on

Endpiece

Roy Hattersley

WHETHER you know it or not, we are at the very beginning of Salvation Army Awareness Week — seven days of gentle bombardment about the work of Britain's most admirable religious organisation. The blood and fire brigade will disapprove of my description. Modesty is one of the Army's historical handicaps. But — stretching the military metaphor — I shall stick to my guns and justify the salvo I have fired in salute. In one respect the Salvation Army is unique. It is officially and collectively committed to the disadvantaged and dispossessed. What other faith, church, communion or denomination requires its candidates for ordination to promise "to care for the poor, feed the hungry, clothe the naked, love the unlovable and befriend the friendless"?

No doubt those virtuous attitudes are endorsed in the New Testament. And thousands of individual mullahs and ministers, rabbis and clerks in holy orders are devoted to the same ideals. But the Salvation Army was founded to meet the needs — both material and spiritual — of the ragged regiments that more respectable churches ignored. It has always believed in soup kitchens as well as sermons, and insisted that sin and poverty are inseparable companions. It still does. All over Britain tonight, homeless men and women will be sleeping under Salvation Army blankets. Thinking about it almost makes me cry. "Hallelujah! I am saved!" and sign the pledge of abstinence from alcohol. Almost, but not quite.

Awareness Week was planned to demonstrate that, despite its origins in the slums of Victorian England, the Salvation Army is a thoroughly up-to-date and increasingly classless organisation, and that it does far more than play Christmas carols in shopping centres. Although generally admired, the Sally Ann is much misunderstood. Until I began to work on a biography of William Booth, all I knew about its modernisation was the replacement of straw bonnets with unbecoming felt hats and the increasing preference for electric guitars over brass trombones. But, although I am writing about the founder rather than the organisation he founded, I have begun to learn something about the changing inheritance.

In practical ways the Army has certainly begun to move with the more prosperous times. But the transition has not been easy. For the challenge has not so much changed as been modified. There are still homeless men to accommodate, missing girls to find, lonely pensioners to befriend and comfort. But their needs have to be met in a more complicated society than the one William Booth inhabited. When the Army — describing the work of its Family Tracing Service — announces that "some families don't want to find each other", there is little doubt that it has moved forward into the age when sexual abuse and marital violence have become horrors to be exorcised not embarrassments to be ignored.

Thinking about the Salvation Army almost makes me pledge abstinence from alcohol — but not quite

A more superficial — though no less significant — example of Army modernisation is printed in the Awareness Week pamphlet's section on help for the elderly. The usual services — sheltered accommodation, home care visits, residential care and "good value, nutritious meals" — are listed. All still badly needed. But one item in the catalogue would not have won Booth's approval. "Organised outings to hairdressers" were not his style. Writing about "fashion" in 1870, he urged his followers "to give up the love of the world, and its pride, and show and folly". It is, he insisted, "your duty to dress so plain as to show the world that you place no reliance on the things of fashion". The Army has, more or less grown out of that idea. But it still looks part of the past not the future.

Part of the problem is the uniform and the slightly absurd military ranks. But they are also the Army's greatest strength — the visible proclamation of fixed principles in a time of shifting values. They are essential to a process called bearing witness and, as any public relations consultant would confirm, that is about as unfashionable an occupation as it is possible to promote. It may not be cool to believe or sophisticated to admit it in public, but overt convictions do wonders for the morale of the troops. Whenever I see the Salvation Army on parade, I ask myself who is benefiting from the banging drums. The answer is the men and women who bang them. They know whose side they are on. In the case of the Salvation Army, it is the side of God and the poor.

The question now is whether or not it is possible to preserve the old values and survive in a new world. If any one can do it, the Salvation Army can. What they stand for is so right and true that it is bound to prevail. The danger for the good men and women who are now in charge is that they will be panicked by dwindling income into doing something which is wholly uncharacteristic. Were they to make that mistake, they would lose the authority which comes from moral constancy. And moral constancy is the Salvation Army's secret weapon. If only I could believe all that Christianity stuff, I would enlist tomorrow.

هكذا من الأصل

The **Guardian**
Monday September 7 1998
Edition Number 47275
119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER
Tel No: 0171-278 2332
Fax No: 0171-837 4530
E-mail: letters@guardian.co.uk
Website: http://www.guardian.co.uk

'First signs that Tony Blair might not be all he seemed were revealed by a cat'
Nicholas Jardine, Letters

Murchester United?

Sky must be resisted

CYNICS will suggest they deserve each other: Manchester United and Murdoch. Both put money before everything else, are for ever searching for new ways of exploiting their audiences and are committed to expanding their commercial interests to the limit. But that would be too cynical for the former Manchester Guardian to endorse. Our founding city has every reason to be proud of its famous football club: no other British club has been as successful, off or on the field, in the past 10 years. Less than a decade ago a property developer almost succeeded in buying the club for £20 million; now Rupert Murdoch's satellite-television group, BSkyB, is ready to pay up to £575 million. A group that paid £650 million for its Premier League rights in 1996 knows how lucrative football has become. It had only two million householders signed up when it made its first Premier League deal in 1992; now it has seven million.

It is easy to see why Murdoch wants United but difficult to understand why Manchester is accepting the bait: it already has an income twice as high as the next English club and four times the Premier League's average. It does not need Murdoch's money and should resist his embrace.

Tony Banks, the Sports Minister, was right: the deal raises profound competition-policy questions for both the sport and the news media. It would be preposterous if BSkyB's reported bid wasn't subjected to a forensic examination by the regulatory authorities. This deal is riddled with conflicts of interest. Murdoch's interests already own the television rights to Premiership matches. If he gains control of Manchester United he will strongly influence the way the league votes for future rights (even negotiating with himself for television rights) besides being in pole position in the drive towards a television-driven European superleague. Mr Murdoch has admitted that he uses sport as a "battering ram" to buy market share for his satellite TV companies but this doesn't mean he should be allowed to dominate every major sporting activity. BSkyB, in which he is a major shareholder, already owns exclusive rights to Rugby League and Rugby Union not to mention contracts for major cricket events. The coming of hundreds of digital channels — which to be fair Mr Murdoch has been very astute in developing — offers an attractive new world in which individual sporting events including many football matches can be "narrow-cast" to supporters at home. But the attractions wil be greatly diminished if one company dominates the field.

And what about the conflicts of interest arising from his cross-media ownership. Will writers in the Sun be free to rubbish Manchester United and call for the manager or chairman's resignation? (Pull the other one.) Will the Sun promote Manchester United products to the exclusion of others? Will BSkyB commentators be constrained? It is one thing to dominate the medium through which television programmes are transmitted but quite another to dominate the content as well. Imagine what the reaction in the Sun would have been if the BBC had bid for Man United instead of Murdoch.

Royal democracy

Can they adjust in time?

DOWNING Street could not have been quicker in dissociating itself from the latest Demos pamphlet, outlining a radical reform of the monarchy. Tory diehards will not be persuaded: they will note the link between Demos and Downing Street — Geoff Mulgan, who helped set up the think-tank, now works in Tony Blair's policy unit. That will feed Tory suspicion of a secret Labour grand design under which the removal of the hereditary peers' voting rights is the start of a slippery slope. If only reformers were so lucky: Labour has not yet worked out what sort of chamber shall replace the Lords let alone thought about the monarchy. There is not going to be a great debate because none of the major party leaders want it. Yet there should be one.

It is only a year since a Palace totally out of touch with the widespread public mourning over Princess Diana's death was forced to get in touch. Since then, it has recovered some of its popularity. But support for the royal family is way below what it was even four years ago.

Demos ruled out a republic. A MORI poll this weekend found only 11 per cent in favour. Instead it seeks to modernise the monarchy by keeping its ceremonial role but removing its political and religious functions. The Queen would lose her power to dissolve parliament, appoint the prime minister or give Royal Assent to Bills; Church and Crown would be separated.

Demos wants a democratic monarch whose legitimacy is not drawn from the divine right of kings but the will of the people. There would be no automatic right of succession; it wnuld depend instead on an affirmative referendum on the fitness of the heir to rule. If rejected, a second referendum would be held and if the next in line was rejected there would be a third. That could lead to excessive referendums hut the pamphlet argues that monarchs should be able to prove that they command the support of the people. Logically that should mean regular referendums throughout a reign.

The Queen has taken some tentative steps, pruning her Civil List, making her funding more transparent and accepting the need to pay taxes. But a modernised monarchy needs to do much more. There are plenty of ideas that Labour and the Palace could take from the Demos plan: abolishing the Civil List, replacing royal courtiers with civil servants, setting up an independent honours commission. Above all the mnnarchy needs to get closer to the people. Prince Charles is intelligent but he is locked into interests — hunting, shooting and fishing — that will make him look even more anachronistic in the 21st century. If he wants the monarchy to survive he needs to devise new ways of making it more open. Demos suggests taking up education as his cause, visiting schools, particularly under-achieving institutions. The polls are still on his side but a majority believe the royal family will not exist within another century.

Letters to the Editor

Keeper's year of the penalty

KEVIN Pressman will find that the trauma of having his wife's Mercedes stolen and written off is not yet over (Goalkeeper stops thief after chase, September 4). In spite of his valiant efforts, his insurance company will penalise him for making a claim to replace the wrecked vehicle. They will increase his premiums next year on the grounds that there is no one to recover the costs from. Every year thousands of innocent victims of car theft are unfairly treated in this way by British motor insurance companies.
Charles Turner.
Virginia Water, Surrey.

TWICE in one week, when indicating Gibraltar on a map, you have marked it in lower case as if it was another town on the Spanish coast, while "Spain" is marked in upper case to recognise its status as a country. Stop it, before you achieve something the Spanish have been trying to do for 300 years.
Mandy Martinez.
London.

THAT beautiful picture printed next to it did much to show up the jealous hysteria of Nick Paton Walsh's diatribe against cats (Hall of infamy, September 5). He chooses to ignore the central position of cats as the muses of mankind. More immediately, he seems to have forgotten that the first eigns that Tony Blair might not be all that he seemed were revealed by Humphrey.
Nichnlas Jardine.
Broxbourne, Herts.

AS anyone in Bury and *Ramsbottom will tell you*, Peel Tower (Riversiders ready for first romance, September 5) was built to commemorate Sir Robert Peel, a local lad who became rather euccessful to politics, and not John Peel the huntsman.
Roger Pearson.
Bury, Lancs.

YOUR correspondent (Letters, September 5) might like to know that possibly the earliest Monica known was the mother of St Augustine of Hippo, whose magnum opus was entitled Confessions.
Jnhn Newman.
March, Cambs.

Bravehearts, hard heads

JONATHAN Freedland may be right about the threat posed by the current surge of nationalism in Scotland (The smiling breakaway, September 2); but I hae ma doots — when it comes to the crunch, we Scots have a way of letting our heads rule our hearts.

A major difficulty is that your correspondent falls into the trap of treating the immensely complex Anglo-Scottish *pas de deux* (well-described by the historian F W Maitland) in terms of the sterile and machanistic either-or debate — either union or separatism or the slippery slope of the dangerously unstable "devolution compromise". What we need in this whole affair is a healthy infusion of joined-up thinking.

"Devolution" is a disastrous misnomer; Britain (as Earl Russell and others, notably Professor James Cornford and Graham Leicester, have pointed out) is a union state — a partnership between England and Scotland — not a unitary state, in which devolution would be perfectly in order. With a partnership there is no possibility of devolution. You stick with it, you terminate it or you renegotiate it.

Re-negotiation is what is, or should be, now going on; and re-negotiation has the potential to get everyone, unionists, separatists and devolutionists, to e very positive "Yes" to something better than is contemplated by any of these mutually exclusive approaches.

The bottom line is a totally independent Scottish parliament. And just as an independent Scotland would co-operate in an informal (not federal) way with England on a whole number of areas of joint importance, so this parliament would work on a properly constituted *confederal* basis with a proper UK parliament at Westminster (English domestic matters having been hived off, whether by regional parliaments or otherwise, from UK business).

It goes without saying that Scotland would be properly represented at Westminster and that the Scottish Secretary of State would be guaranteed a seat in the newly established UK Cabinet.

The late and great Mary Parker Follett would have called this an integrated solution. I call it a joined-up solution to e joined-up problem, with either-or thinking giving way to either-and-or thinking. In full recognition of the fact that "and", as a distinguished philosopher of science once said, is the most important word in the English language.
Drummond Hunter.
Edinburgh.

I AM sure Jonathan Freedland had a great time at the Edinburgh Festival but he didn't seem to learn much ebout Scottish politics. There is no problem about being both Scottish and determined to play a strong role in the United Kingdom. As someone who has spent decades arguing that a devolved Scottish parliament would enhance my country's future within the UK, I have seen no evidence to change my mind.

As Freedland asserts, Scottish politics is becoming "normal". The Nationalist whinge has been shown to be inadequate in the face of the strong partnership between New Labour in Scotland and the New Labour government in Westminster that delivered the historic prize.

Instead the debate here — as all but day trippers have noticed — is about just what a Scottish parliament can do. In this field Alex Salmond offers nothing. Every time he has been challenged by the Labour Party his "policies" have fallen apart. The real panic in Edinburgh comes every time Mr Salmond faces a journalist asking him: "What are you going to do?" Unfortunately Freedland does not seem to have gone that far.
Helen Liddell MP.
Deputy Secretary of State for Scotland.
Glasgow.

A lesson in good manners

I HAVE no personal knowledge of Eric Griffiths or his interview technique with regard to university candidates, though I see that this has been adversely discussed in your own and other columns. However, I thought it would not be too long before the name of *F R Leavis* came up as a representative of academic bad manners. It does not, either, surprise me that this matter should be raised (Letters, September 4) by a person now an undergraduate who, by dint of youth, could have had no direct contact with Leavis as a teacher.

Let me assure this undergradnate that Leavis showed an unfailing courtesy to his students. He was the pattern of patience and kindness, and set an example to those who, like myself, have spent many years of our lives in university work.

I recently retired from a Chair held at Glasgow University after 35 years as a university teacher. Hardly a day passed during my academic career which was not illuminated, in one way or another, by the wisdom and vision of that great man.

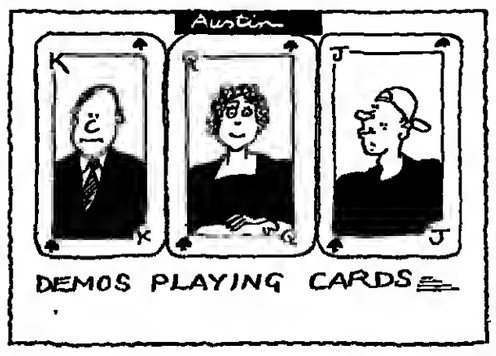
It pains me, as it must other pupils of Leavis, to see him brought out on inappropriate occasions as some kind of standard butt, especially when this is done by people who, self-evidently, have scant knowledge of his life and work.
Philip Hobsbaum.
Glasgow.

Fund famine

PETER Fanning (Letters, September 5) writes that PFI is "about management and not economics". PFI funding comes from savings held in pension funds, investment trusts, etc, a finite resource. Previously, this funding went into creating jobs in manufacturing and service industries. Replacing public funding with private monies for schools and other state assets reduces the combined investment level so increasing unemployment.

Those who are unemployed as a result of PFI might think it an economic issue.
Andy Walker.
Ilford, Essex.

Please include a full postal address, even on e-mailed letters.



Fresh fuel for the power struggle

BNFL's pressure on ministers to extend the life of the ageing Magnox reactors (Ministers pressed to reprieve Magnox plants, September 4) in the interests of meeting CO_2 emission targets is typical of the myopic view environmentalists have been up against in decades of campaigning.

The most comprehensive answer to CO_2 emissions — supported by every credible critic and official institution from the Met Office to the Inter-governmental panel on climate change — is energy efficiency, or using existing technology to make the fuels we currently use go further through efficient conversion into usable heat and power, efficient transmission from the point of generation to the *point of end use and the efficient* end use of that energy.

Couple energy efficiency with the planned replacement of fossil fuels by renewable sources of energy where appropriate, and the need for huge, centralised, inefficient coal-, oil- and gas- fired and even nnclear power stations disappears. All the Magnox stations combined only produce as much electricity as two large coal-fired stations and, unlike more conventional plant, they cannot be converted to co-generation.

Taking toto account the entire nuclear fuel cycle from uranium mining to reprocesstog and waste management, it is wrong to claim that nuclear power does not contribute to CO_2 emissions. But even if this was the case, nuclear power remains a potentially dangerous technology which generates highly radioactive, toxic and carcinogenic waste for which no acceptable disposal strategy has been devised. The Magnox stations have only one future — unacceptable as it may be to BNFL who will have to see, at some point, what is today an "asset" turn into e costly liability when decommissioning becomes a reality — and that is to close them down sooner rather than later.
Pete Wilkinson.
Halesworth, Suffolk.

IT'S simply not true that we need to extend the life of Magnox reactors to meet carbon-dioxide reduction targets. The Government should initiate a massive expansion of renewable energy, not only to protect the climate but also to stimulate a new, modern *world-class industry*.

Britain has the best offshore wind resource in Europe and could generate 40 per cent of its electricity needs from offshore wind alone by 2030. As well as creating 36,000 new jobs, it would be a key ingredient in exceeding the current CO_2 reduction target by 2010.

John Prescott agreed both to reduce the UK's radioactive discharges to "close to zero" at the Ospar meeting in July, and to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions at the Climate Summit last December. If the Government were to give in to demands to keep Magnox plants gotog, we would fail to meet one international agreement in order to try to meet another. Better to begin investing in industries of the future than continue throwing good money after bad at industries of the past.
Pete Roche.
Greenpeace.

If only we could embrace drains as well as opera

SIX cheers for Polly Toynbee's article on tax (Labour's last taboo, September 3). It should be read to Tony Blair every morning before breakfast until he gets the message. He should have started e campaign to educate the electorate ebout the realities of the Thatcheroid twaddle immediately he entered No 10, but he seems to have swallowed it himself. Indeed, I sometimes wonder if he is one of those who join, not the party they believe in, but the one in which they see the best prospects.

For me, the whole point of public ownership of facilities which we can't do without, and financing them from taxation, is that it is by far the most cost-effective way of raising money. The immense pnblic efforts needed to raise e few extra coppers for schools, hospitals, hospices and so on, makes me want to scream. I suspect, too, that the British state of mind could be changed to accept that civilised life is about opera houses as well as drains; the citizens of medium-sized German and *Italian towns seem untroubled* by the notion. We, one of the richest nations in the world, have persuaded ourselves that we can't afford to repair the drains either, or sweep our cities.

The two worst disasters for Britain to my lifetime, which *includes Hitler and Mussolini*, are the death of John Smith and the life of Margaret Thatcher.

Six cheers? Please make that 20.
Brooke Harvey.
Dunmow, Essex.

POLLY Toynbee's assertion that, as a nation, we must learn that we will only get the kind of society we want if we pay more taxes is missing the point. This government has proved, like the one before it, that you couldn't trust it with your luncheon vouchers.

While she's right that many voted for Labour because they wanted a change in priorities — properly funded health, education and transport systems — can there be many people left who think there isn't enough money sloshing around already to fund these?

In the same issue, you quoted the Commons public accounts committee as saying that government sell-offs of more than 150 publicly owned companies over the last 20 years yielded £90 billion, even if successive governments lost millions as huge profits were made for a tiny few following *privatisations*.

When the public sees its taxes going to pay for this kind of incompetence, it is no wonder that so many nurses, teachers and lower low-paid workers are loth to give up more of their hard-earned income.
Samantha Goddard.
London.

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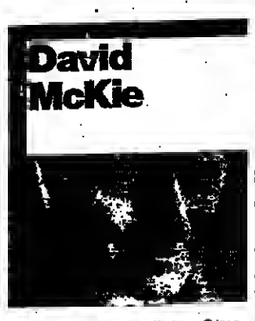
Bring on the apes



David McKie

MICHAELA Strachan, who used to crop up on children's TV capering about with someone called Timmy, has gone up in the world. Last week she appeared on BBC1 with a dishy doctor called Willy, rescuing orang-utans.

There is clearly work to be done. There aren't any orang-utans left outside Borneo and Sumatra, and in Borneo their numbers have fallen from 23,000 to 15,000 as forests have disappeared — some destroyed by terrible fires, but others by loggers. Once they're deprived of their cover, it's easy to catch them. The mothers are killed and eaten; their young may be doomed unless the rescue services find them.

The threat of the orang-utan's extinction is even more poignant because they are quite like us. "One of our closest relatives" was how Michaela put it, but some naturalists have pitched it much higher than that. Which was why when he wrote his satire Melincourt, Thomas Love Peacock chose an orang-utan, rather than a gorilla or chimpanzee, as the creature which, captured, conveyed to England and carefully nurtured, developed so remarkably that he became first a baronet and then a Conservative MP.

Many of the accomplishments which Peacock attributed to Sir Oran Haut-Ton were based on observations by naturalists as famous as Buffon and Linnaeus, all carefully quoted in footnotee under his text. Since Peacock's merciless erudition is matched by a strong sense of mischief, you have to be wary about his sources, but as far as I can tell the quotations are genuine. On which basis it's not to be doubted that an orang-utan could exhibit exquisite courteay, eat and drink at distinguished tables without ever disgracing himself, play the flute and French horn, and so on.

The baronetcy and the seat in the House of Commons may seem a little far-fetched, but Peacock explains that too. Brought back from Angola and at first employed as gardener by his benefactor, a Captain Hawltaught, the orang passes, on Hawltaught's death, into the care of the idealist Sylvan Forester, who lives in a former abbey not far from the castle of Melincourt, Westmorland, in the midst of that wild and romantic country which so entranced Wordsworth. Forester is anxious to introduce his protégé into society, but knows that it may be fatal for an orang-utan to be laughed at. What better protection could there be against that than a Sir before his name and the letters MP behind it? Fashionable opinion swiftly succumbs. "A baronet! and an MP!" cries the Hon Mrs Pinmoney, who at first recoiled at the baronet's odd appearance. "Well, now I look at him again, I certainly do not think him so very plain. He has a very fashionable air. Haut-ton! French extraction, no doubt."

Neither Buffon nor Linnaeus offers any authority for an orang-utan taking his place in a legislature, even on the Conservative benches. But Peacock, writing before the first great Reform Act, has no great problem with that. Forester buys him one of two seats in a constituency called Onevote, whose sole elector is the easily satisfied Mr Christopher Corporate. Sir Oran is introduced at public meetings as "a man of few words". In fact he has no words at all, but nobody seems to mind. (Real life was not so wildly short of this fantasy. One of the richest jute manufacturers in Dundee once procured a seat in Parliament for his son in law, a Russian who spoke not a word of English.)

For all the orang's tractability and quickness to learn, one cannot imagine one of these creatures achieving a Tory nomination today. With the party on 28 per cent of the vote on the latest Gallup, their very intelligence would dissuade them from getting involved in such a benighted enterprise.

One cannot help wondering, though, if the clever young people in Millbank were watching Michaela last week. One problem with Sir Oran was that he tended to lose his temper, root up trees, and threaten to throw sleazebags out of the window when his sense of natural justice was affronted. But in all other respects, one can see the potential value in enlisting some of the orang-utans rescued by Michaela and Willy in the cause of New Labour.

In a party in the throes of conversion to something more like a football supporters' club; whose conference — once its parliament — is now to be reduced to a rally; where the principal qualification for NEC membership is loyalty to the leadership, and where speaking out is sabotage and mnte acquiescence perfection, the recruitment of orang-utans as the party's elected representatives could be just what the spin doctors ordered. If they — or anyone elae, for more salubrious reasons — wants to know more about what Dr Willy and the World Society for the Protection of Animals are doing in Borneo, the number to ring is 0800 616919.

Akira Kurosawa

Cutting edge of cinema

IN HIS honest, humane and wise autobiography, inspired by that of Jean Renoir, Akira Kurosawa, who has died aged 88, described a shattering experience in Tokyo when he was 13 years old: the Great Kanto earthquake of 1923. "Through it I learned not only of the extraordinary powers of nature, but extraordinary things that lie in human hearts."

The quake and the subsequent fire reduced two-thirds of the capital to ashes and took 140,000 lives. Kurosawa's family, living in a hill auburb of Tokyo, was lucky: though the house was damaged, the fires did not reach it. But there was no electricity, and when the neighbourhood's supply of candles was exhausted, the darkness was total and terrible. A rumour spread that Korean residents of the city were somehow responsible for the mayhem, and there was a massacre of Koreans in downtown Tokyo. The aliens were said to have poisoned the wells; strange chalk notations on the wall around a local well were ascribed to a Korean code. In fact the scribbles had been made by the young Kurosawa, who was "flabbergasted" by the *irrationality of the adults*.

When the holocaust abated, a strong-willed elder brother took Akira on a day-long tour of the blasted and lifeless city. "I saw corpses charred black, half-burned corpses, corpses in gutters, corpses floating in rivers, corpses piled up on bridges, corpses blocking off a whole street at an intersection". Involuntarily, he looked away, but his brother insisted that he look carefully. Back home that night he slept like a log. He asked his brother how it could happen. He told Akira: "If you shut your eyes to a frightening sight, you end up being frightened. If you look at everything straight on, there is nothing to be afraid of."

Though the adult Kurosawa was characteristically reticent about this, it is difficult not to see it reflected in his more than 30 feature films about past and present Japan, which abound in both baseness and nobility, savagery and sophistication, on an epic scale. Films such as *Rashomon*, *Ikiru (Living)*, *The Seven Samurai*, *Throne of Blood*, *The Hidden Fortress* and *Dersu Uzala*, that are among the most powerful movies ever made. Not only was their creator Japan's greatest film director, he was one of the greatest 20th-century artists working in any medium.

Kurosawa was born in Tokyo, the youngest of seven children. His mother was from an Osaka merchant community, his father from a samurai family which hailed from a village in the northern part of Honshu. Kurosawa admired his mother for her power of endurance and her "realism", but it was his father, a romantic, who really influenced him; and indeed women were never of central importance to Kurosawa, either in his life or in his films (unlike his fellow directors Mizoguchi and Ozu).

His father was "a strict man of military background" who taught martial arts, helped to build Japan's first swimming pool and worked to make baseball popular. He encouraged his son's ability in kendo swordsmanship, and the young Kurosawa, despite being quite weak as a child, reached the first rank as a swordsman: the source of the inside knowledge that would enable him to stage enormously exciting duels in films such as *The Hidden Fortress*, *Yojimbo* and *Rashomon*.

But the true samurai spirit — bushido — inculcated by his father always mattered more to Kurosawa than the samurai's outward trappings. Donald Richie, Kurosawa's leading western interpreter, defined it thus: "compassionate steadfastness, complete moral honesty, inability to compromise, and action through belief". When Hollywood borrowed *The Seven Samurai* to make *The Magnificent Seven*, and Sergio Leone borrowed *Yojimbo* to make *A Fistful of Dollars* — thereby launching Clint Eastwood as the "Man With No Name" — Kurosawa was not impressed (though he was a keen admirer of John Ford). Japanese samurai had been replaced by Wild West gunmen who were basically gangsters. Samurai are the total opposite of gangsters, said a wry Kurosawa; but these Westerns had turned them into men nearly as worthless as their enemies, the bandits who were attacking the townspeople.

After leaving school, Kurosawa dabbled in many arts, read voraciously both Japanese and western literature, particularly the Russian classics — he later adapted Dostoevsky and Gorky — and saw a large number of films under the tutelage of his elder brother, who had established himself as a successful narrator for silent film. (After talkies arrived, he committed suicide, which shook Kurosawa as much as the earthquake.)

Kurosawa showed real promise as a painter, and began selling illustrations to magazines. He was also loosely associated with a revolutionary proletarian movement, though communism did not make much impression on him. It never crossed his mind to become a filmmaker until he happened to notice an advertisement by the young film studio P C L (later Toho) asking for assistant directors. Despite having no university degree and little demonstrable achievement, Kurosawa was selected.

The years at Toho, from 1936 until he directed his first film *Sanshiro Sugata* in 1943, were gruelling for Kurosawa, but they gave him experience of almost every aspect of film-making. His chief teacher, the considerable director Kajiro Yamamoto, once told a magazine: "All I ever taught Kurosawa was how to drink." Kurosawa, by contrast, reckoned he had learned hugely from Yamamoto. "His attitude was that in order to train his assistant directors it was worth sacrificing his own pictures . . . How is it possible to express one's gratitude to someone so selfless?"

The beginning of the Pacific war and Kurosawa's "desperate battle to become a director" coincided. By August 1945, he had managed to complete four features, working in the *teeth of military censorship*. The most innocuous scene might be rejected as "British-American" while the use of march music by Sousa, the famous US bandleader, would pass unnoticed. (Later Kurosawa defended his frequent use of western music on the grounds that Japanese audiences would not understand traditional Japanese music.)

SO INFURIATED did the censors make Kurosawa — a "short-tempered and obstinate man", by his own admission — that he made a pact with some friends towards the end of the war when all Japan was contemplating the Honourable Death of the Hundred Million: before taking their own lives, they would assassinate the censors.

As for the war itself, Kurosawa offered no resistance to Japanese militarism, which shamed him then and afterwards. On August 15, 1945, walking to the studio to hear Emperor Hirohito's surrender broadcast, he saw the preparations for mass suicide; shop-owners were staring at the bare blades of their unsheathed swords. On the way back, the very same people were bustling about with cheerful faces as if preparing for a festival.

"I don't know if this represents Japanese adaptability or Japanese imbecility," he wrote in 1981. "In either case, I have to recognise that both these facets exist in the Japanese personality. Both facets exist within my own personality as well." Perhaps this accounted for his unbalanced attitude towards the dropping of the atomic bomb in his 1991 film *Rhapsody in August*, for which he was rightly attacked by western critics.

Rashomon, made in 1950, brought Kurosawa, and indeed Japanese cinema as a whole, to the attention of a curious world. Shown at the Venice Film Festival in 1951, the film was a sensation and carried off the Grand Prix. In India, it helped to inspire a would-be director later deeply admired by Kurosawa, Satyajit Ray, who called *Rashomon* "the kind of film that immediately suggests a culmination, a fruition, rather than a beginning. You could not — as a film-making nation — have a *Rashomon* and nothing to show before it." The story of a rape and a death in feudal Japan hundreds of years ago, told in four sections from the four participants contradictory points of view, *Rashomon* is a timeless work of universal appeal. As Kurosawa described it, "Human beings are unable to be honest with themselves about themselves. They cannot talk about themselves without embellishing."

The 15 years after *Rashomon* were Kurosawa's golden period. His finest film of all (and his own favourite), *The Seven Samurai* (1954), seems to contain the whole of human experience in the relationships that develop between a village and the samurai hired by the villagers to defend themselves from pillage by ruthless robbers.

It is an action picture to end all action pictures, a hymn to movement, but it is also profound philosophy. Plot and psychology are here in a perfect balance, never quite achieved by Kurosawa again. The closing scene distils all that has gone before: the courage of the samurai has won the battle, but the surviving samurai know that the meek villagers will win the peace. The richness and intensity of the film is that of tragedy by Shakespeare, whose *Macbeth* and *King Lear* Kurosawa later adapted (as *Throne of Blood* and *Ran*).

After 1965, Kurosawa's career went into steep decline. His magnificent lead actor, Toshiro Mifune, left him because of his mammoth shooting schedules. The high cost of his film antagonised Japanese producers. And though his audiences in Japan were generally favourable, the Japanese press throughout his career accused him of purveying an exotic Japan to the West. This was both wounding and wilfully blinkered, given the rapid and rather mindless westernisation of Japan after the war, which Kurosawa much disliked. But it is true that Kurosawa was a much more western artist than, say, Mizoguchi and Ozu: "fifty per cent western, I think", Satyajit Ray once told me, "and so am I". (For some years Kurosawa used to send me a Christmas card illustrated afresh each year by himself; it showed a gaudy Father Christmas with just a hint of a samurai.)

Eventually, after a widely publicised falling out over a Hollywood mega-project in 1968 and a commercial flop with a Japanese-financed small-budget film, Kurosawa attempted suicide in 1971. His fortunes revived with Russian help (*Dersu Uzala*), French help (*Ran*), and the backing of younger Hollywood directors, Francis Ford Coppola and George Lucas (*Kagemusha*) and Steven Spielberg (*Dreams*, in which Martin Scorsese acted a small role). But, enchanting, gorgeous, cruel and grand as all these films variously are, with the exception of *Dersu* they lack Kurosawa's former vitality.

Nevertheless, we have the masterpieces, which will never be forgotten. They are how Kurosawa, an extremely private man, wanted to be remembered. "I don't really like talking about my film", he wrote in *Something Like an Autobiography*. "Everything I want to say is in the film itself; for me to say anything more is, as the proverb goes, like 'drawing legs on a picture of a snake'."

Andrew Robinson

Akira Kurosawa, film director, born March 23, 1910; died September 6, 1998

Through a glass darkly . . . Kurosawa in 1980 on the set of Kagemusha, one of the later films that lacked the vitality of his early masterpieces

Toshiro Mifune and Machiko Kyo in Rashomon

The true samurai spirit inculcated by his father always mattered more to Kurosawa than the samurai's outward trappings

Leonard Cragg

The good father

TO DUMB but voluble newspapers the Church of England seems chiefly a source of jokes in the saucy postcard tradition, or a collection of politically naive busybodies. Most parishioners know a rather different institution, exemplified by priests like Canon Leonard Cragg, who has died aged 70.

Spirituality apart, the little salary and big tied cottage produce a social work agency with probably more than one skilled and blessedly jargon-free therapist and counsellor, a keeper of historical records, even a modest funder of last resort. Len Cragg provided all this and much more in his various Blackburn parishes, and at the vast mental hospital whose granite grimness was visibly lightened by his chaplaincy.

His quiet but impressive charismatic gifts were refined in Frank Lake's clinical theology group, of which he was secretary, and he became an inspired teacher of the counselling of the bereaved, and a pastoral counsellor to generations of ordinands not only in Lancashire but also in Cambridge and the Oxford diocese.

A short, quintessential Lancastrian, in his youth Len was just the right slight build as a successful cox at Trinity College, Dublin, reading modern literature before studying theology at Cuddesdon. Extramurally, he was a fair jazz drummer, devoted to Dixieland, a wicked hand with a snooker cue, and an ardent amateur Hispanist.

To the confused, apparently indifferent, but profoundly needy times in which he ministered, Len brought a rare fusion of a kind of spirituality of example with hard, patient praxis. His last months were harsh: major open-heart surgery was followed with cruel swiftness by a rapidly invasive cancer. But as his wife Jill said when at last he could no longer see Gurner, the great green meadow under Pendle that their room looked out on, he managed his own and his family's pain and love like a textbook example from one of his own courses. A good end, a good man.

Counsellor . . . Cragg

W L Webb

The Rev Canon Leonard Albert Cragg, born May 29, 1928; died September 3, 1998

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

A SHORT report headed Suffering starts again, Page 27, August 28, included the following incorrect sentence: "Rolls-Royce, now owned by Volkswagen, moved its research and development centre from Newcastle to Derby — a significant loss because the area needs to retain skilled jobs." This confuses Rolls-Royce plc with Rolls-Royce Motor Cars Ltd which *is* owned by Volkswagen, following its sale by Vickers plc. Rolls-Royce plc is a global company in aerospace, defence and energy markets. It employs 2,500 people in the North-east, although it is true that the research and development centre for Rolls-Royce industrial businesses has been consolidated into the larger research facilities in Derby.

A PORTRAIT of Lord Kitchener, reproduced on Page 10, September 4, was flipped, thus placing his medals on the wrong breast.

A PHOTOGRAPH of Lady Thatcher, Page 9, September 4, showing her with her new portrait, was wrongly captioned. We identified the man in the picture as the artist, James Gillick. It was the artist's brother, Ben Gillick. He made the frame.

IN OUR report of the Swissair crash, Page 3, September 4, we referred to the Canadian navy ship, HMSC Preserver. That should have been HMCS (Her Majesty's Canadian Ship).

IN AN ARTICLE about Eric Griffiths headed Cult of Eric, cleverest man in England . . ., Page 3, August 29, we inadvertently knighted Professor Christopher Ricks. Sorry that we now have to divest him.

IN WATCHDOG'S Week, Page 13, G2, September 3, we said, "A hi-fi on standby can cost almost 80p an hour." No it can't. One reader (among many) writes, "At Southern Electric prices, 80 pence would pay for more than 10 kilowatt-hours of electricity, ie, enough to run three three-bar electric fires for an hour."

It is the policy of the Guardian to correct errors as soon as possible. Please quote date and page number. Readers may contact the office of the Readers' Editor by telephoning 0171 239 9589 between 11am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. Surface mail to Readers' Editor, The Guardian, 119, Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER. Fax: 0171 239 9897. E-mail: reader@guardian.co.uk

Birthdays

Prof Malcolm Bradbury, novelist, 66; Kevin Curran, cricketer, 39; J Paul Getty II, philanthropist, 68; Peter Gill, playwright, associate director, Royal National Theatre, 58; Margaret Hampshire, educationalist, 80; Dianne Hayter, former chief executive, European Parliamentary Labour Party, 49; Lord Jenkin of Roding, former Conservative minister, 72; Elia Kazan, author and film director, 89; Gordon Richards, racehorse trainer, 68; Sonny Rollins, jazz saxophonist, 69; Lord (Andrew) Stone, joint managing director, Marks & Spencer, 56; Liz Tilberis, editor, Harpers Bazaar, 51.

Death Notices

KAY, Ella Laura, (formerly Sullivan, née Drasen), died peacefully on September 3rd 1998, aged 87. Dearly loved by (her son) Michael and Jill, and by (her grandson) Jonathan and Sali. Funeral service at St Georges U.R.C. Bexhill, Thursday September 10th at 11.00am. Followed by Cremation. Flowers or donations if desired to St Michael's Hospice c/o Mummery F/D, 31 Devonshire Road, Bexhill-on-Sea TN40 1AH

NORRIS, Jean Guthrie, on the 1st September 1998, died peacefully after a short illness. Cremation at Surrey and Sussex Crematorium, Crawley at 2pm Thursday 10th September, in lieu of flowers, donations to Action Aid would be appreciated. Inquiries to Francis Chappel & Son, tel 01293 521407.

■ To place your announcement telephone 0171 713 4567 or fax 0171 713 4707 between 9am and 5pm Mon-Fri.

A Country Diary

NORWICH: When people want to see whales it is assumed you have to spend a lot of money and go somewhere exotic such as Baja California or Antarctica. However a group of Norwich whalewatchers has pioneered one of the most exciting opportunities in British wildlife circles. Whales can be seen from boats that leave two main English Channel ports. Ferries from Portsmouth and Plymouth heading respectively for the northern Spanish cities of Bilbao and Santander pass through deep oceanic waters in the southern Bay of Biscay. These areas are rich in whales and dolphins of at least 19 species, representing about a quarter of the world's cetaceans. Graeme Cresswell and Dylan Walker have now produced a short journal, The 1997 Bay Of Biscay Cetacean Report, which documents last year's sightings from 12 surveys. This gives a necessarily rough picture of the variety, numbers and distribution of the whales (obtainable from 35 Melrose Road, Norwich NR4 7FN, £4.50 inclusive). But what it does admirably is to indicate the wonderful whalewatching opportunities from British ferries. Most if not all the trips have seen some of the biggest species such as fin, sei and sperm whales. Other specialities, which are difficult to see anywhere in the world, are Cuvier's beaked and northern bottle-nosed whales, and the striped dolphin. This year is proving to be just as good as 1997 and a group last month saw almost 300 dolphins and 70 large whales. Another undoubted highlight was a pod of orcas circling and weighing up their hunting opportunities from a party of fin whales. Good whalewatching requires calm conditions — less than a force five wind — but the stability of the ferries means you can use a telescope mounted on a tripod. Binoculars are essential. So too is a sense of awe at some of the world's greatest living creatures.

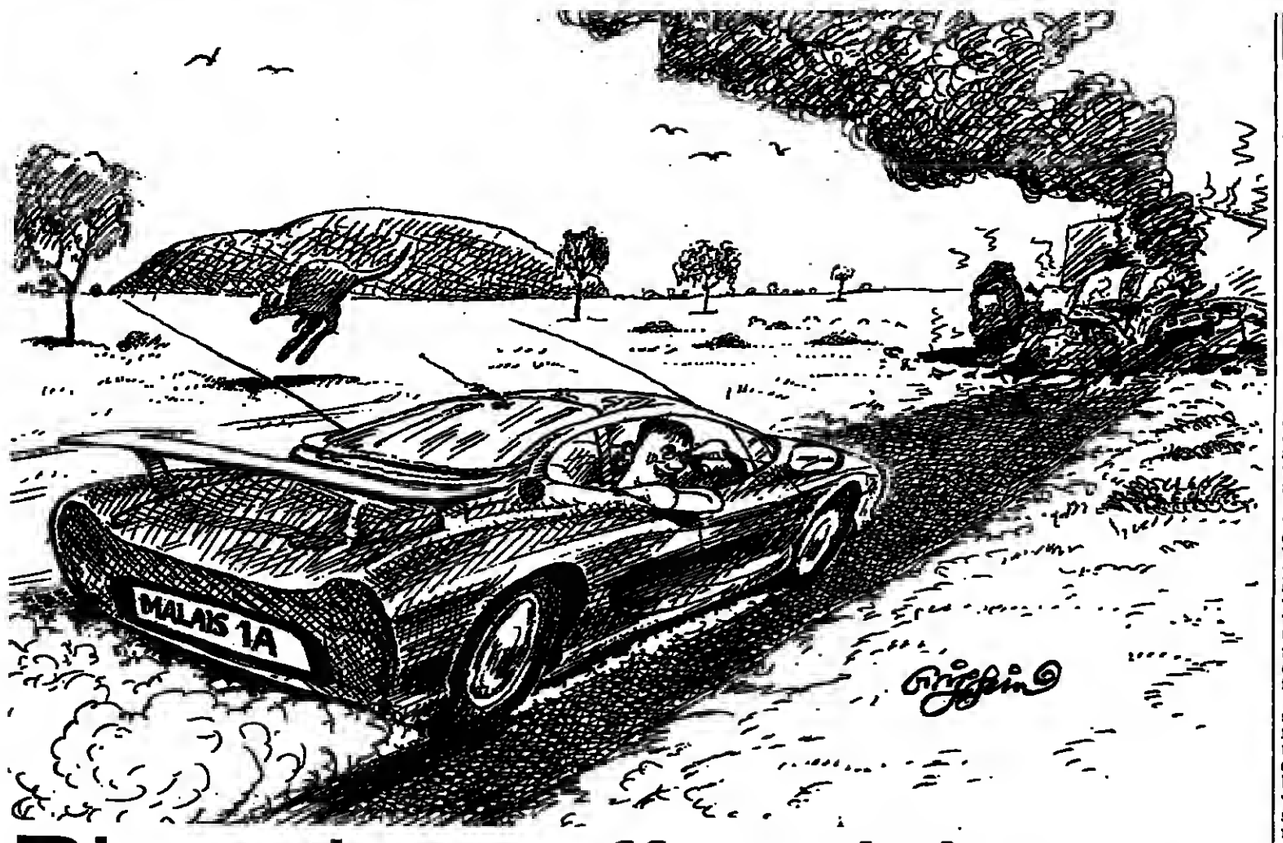
MARK COCKER

Nigel Slater travelled far and wide gathering exotic ingredients for his free recipe cards.

The Observer

Thai crab cakes and stir fried prawns with lime and garlic are on the menu this Sunday. Exclusively in the Observer.

هكذا من الأصل



Blow the gaff and tie me capital down, sport

Larry Elliott

IT WAS hard to know which was the greater shock — the Financial Times supporting capital controls or the New Statesman saying it was time to bring back Keynes. But last week, as the global crisis rumbled into Latin America and sent tremors through western stock markets, one thing was clear: change is in the air.

As the bible of business, it was only to be expected that the FT would devote a leader to Malaysia's decision to introduce wide-ranging capital controls. Rather less predictable was what the leader actually said.

"Capital controls have become dirty words in today's economic orthodoxy. But as the crisis in south-east Asia showed, unfettered movement of capital can have devastating effects," it argued.

"Capital controls allow the de-linking of domestic monetary policy from exchange-rate movements. Under certain conditions, this could prove a way forward for the Asian crisis economies."

Three caveats then followed, but all the same this was pretty explosive stuff.

Nor was the FT alone. Days earlier, Swiss daily Neue Zürcher Zeitung, the paper read by the "gnomes" of Zurich, said the financial crisis had got so bad that the "poison cabinet" had to be opened and exchange controls implemented.

The voice of the Swiss banking system added that financial markets needed reflationary stimuli, but in the current panic-stricken environment, any such move "would trigger just another confidence crisis in the financial markets. The key question, now, is how to regenerate confidence".

Well yes, absolutely. But haven't we been told for the past 20 years that markets are self-stabilising, and that any attempts to curtail capital liberalisation is both counter-productive and vain?

Apparently all that laissez-faire stuff has for the time being gone out of the window.

So why the change of heart?

First, it is quite clear that the surrender of economic control from the state to the untrammelled market has been an unmitigated disaster.

Second, having been rumbled, that international capital is prepared to make a few concessions now, rather than face tougher controls later.

When the Group of Seven industrial nations meet in London this week to discuss a rescue plan for Russia there will doubtless be much talk about how the system is basically sound. This is nonsense. It is like taking an inexperienced driver, putting him in a high performance car and giving him a huge incentive to get from A to B as quickly as possible.

For true believers there is nothing wrong with this; the markets know best, even when time horizons can be measured in minutes and the sums involved are staggering.

But this can only be true under certain circumstances. To return to our boy racer, providing his car was travelling across the Australian desert on an open road for a thousand miles, there would be no problem in putting his foot down. If the future is predictable, the system automatically corrects itself.

Keynesians have always argued that the real world is not like that. Roads have corners and become clogged up with vehicles and pedestrians.

The reality for most of us is *not* peering out of the window to spot tha odd kangaroo bounding across the outback but driving, nose to tail, around the M25.

All of us know that roads need strict rules and cars need good brakes. We have been persuaded, however, that all the global capital markets need is the very lightest touch on the tiller.

Without brakes, the system has careered into an all-too predictable pile-up. Countries now have a choice: either to crawl along *very slowly* using high-interest rates to keep tha speculators happy, or to re-install the car's brakes. Unsurprisingly, some of them are deciding to plump for the brakes.

For Malaysia and Russia — which have decided they have had enough of speculation — it is undoubtedly tha right decision. The real need for Malaysia is for lower interest rates, which will allow the recapitalisation of the bombed-out banking system. This cannot possibly happen if lower rates lead to hot money leaking offshore.

The reality is not peering out of the car window in the outback but driving nose to tail on the M25

Similarly with Russia. As Mark Horn and Richard Harrison of stockbroker T Hoare put it last week, Russia needs a domestic credit bank to help turn the country from a barter to a monetary economy. However, it can only do this with exchange controls.

Looking at what is happening to those countries doing things by the book, it is not hard to see why there is a growing mood for change.

Indonesia, which has had the full International Monetary Fund treatment over the past year, is suffering from an alarming increase in unemployment, a precipitous fall in school enrolment and a reversal of the anti-poverty programme of the past 30 years.

In Thailand, patients have been sent home halfway through treatment because the cost of their care has escalated or because the hospitals have run out of drugs.

A few months ago, Malaysia and Russia would have been pilloried as extremists for daring to challenge the orthodoxy. But the sentiment has now subtly changed. Even by the debased political language of the late 20th century, the idea that slapping on exchange controls is "extremist" while policies which force cancer patients out of hospital is "tough love" simply will not wash.

The truth is that the orthodox approach to the crisis of the past year has not worked. The IMF is running out of money, running out of ideas and running out of friends. It is to managing the world economy what Basil Fawlty was to running a hotel.

Initially, it was said that the Asian meltdown was a problem of transparency, and that all that was needed was to improve the flow of information to the market.

But as Joseph Stiglitz, chief economist of the World Bank, noted in a speech in Chicago earlier this year: "It is worth observing that some of the countries with the weakest financial sectors, the greatest lack of transparency, and the most corrupt political structures, were hardly touched by the contagion from East Asia. These were countries with closed, or at least more closed, capital accounts."

This was not the end of Stiglitz's deviation from the orthodoxy. He argued that restructuring done the IMF way — could lead to havoc, and in turn credit crunches, contributing to the insolvency of firms that otherwise would have survived.

Stiglitz said that there was a need to design "financial systems that buffer the economy against shocks rather than magnify the shocks ... I think that the time is ripe for an open debate and discussion on the advantages and limitations of a variety of approaches, including some form of taxes, regulations, or restraints on international capital flows".

The Stiglitz view of the world is entirely sensible and pragmatic. His argument is that if governments and the IMF are to bail out countries after a crisis has occurred, it would be more sensible to prevent the crisis happening in the first place.

The problem is not a shortage of economists with ideas for re-regulating capital, but with a lack of political will and political courage at a time when there is a desperate need for governments to break with the economic orthodoxy of the past 25 years and to face up to the twin perils of deflation and global financial anarchy.

Fascinatingly, this is the conclusion that the New Statesman — owned by Geoffrey Robinson and hitherto loyal to the Government — has also reached.

"The present world economic regime did not come about through a force of nature. It was deliberately willed into being by political decision, and it can be willed out of being — or at least modified — by a different kind of decision ...

"The sadness is that, at the very moment when the world cries out for an alternative, the western left has all but sold its soul to the ideology of the global market."

Absolutely true. The Staggers, it appears, seems to have lost patience with the new orthodoxy — with trying to defend, from the perspective of the centre-left, an economic system created by the right — and is telling the Government to change course before it is too late. Ministers would be well advised to heed the warning.

Debate

Anti-Keynesian drift dotty and dangerous

Robin Marris

LAST week I asserted that the ultimate aim of economic policy must be the maximisation of social welfare — a weighted average of everyone's income and wealth with disproportionate weights for the least advantaged.

In the run-up to the election, that seemed an excellent description of New Labour. We had in Gordon Brown a prospective Chancellor whose speeches seemed concerned with poverty and social deprivation, while recognising, as Old Labour often failed to do, that the welfare of the middle class and even of the successful rich also count.

Earlier, the then opposition spokesman for Treasury affairs, Tony Blair, had said on television that he wouldn't object to the Bank of England becoming independent provided it were given a brief strongly emphasising employment and economic growth.

He added that it was of course not easy to know how to make an economy grow, but he felt that the key lay in education.

The last remark puzzled me. Although of course, it is always good to have more education, I also knew from my research for How to Save the Underclass (Macmillan, 1996) that in the recent period of our national history when social deprivation had increased, there had also been massive increases at every level of education and most especially a major decline in the proportion of people leaving school at the age of 16. It also seemed odd to speak about education when discussing the Bank of England.

One explanation could have been that our future PM was rather sensibly avoiding a difficult TV discussion of the well-springs of economic growth. With hindsight, however, one can see the seeds of the anti-Keynesian "supply side" bias that has increasingly taken over New Labour.

Tony Giddens, Tony Blair's favourite social scientist, has pronounced that the concept of full-employment is dead. A writer in the New Statesman described Keynes as New Labour's least-favourite economist.

When advanced texts of speeches by Mr Brown contain snippets of residual Keynesianism, they are excised from the delivered version. One Labour contact outside the Treasury told me: "You've got to face it Robin, the Keynesian debate is lost".

So the brief eventually sent to the new Bank of England monetary policy committee, contained no vestige of the Tony Blair of the TV interview and to all intents and purposes the Government's entire system of macroeconomic policy is now based on the idea that if the monetary system is properly managed, the demand side of the real economy will look after itself.

This theory is not only dotty but dangerous. Even without the world economic crisis, it could prove the Government's undoing. For example, stuck with a one-dimensional policy target (the inflation rate) and a one-dimensional instrument (the bank rate), the MPC are terrified of something everyone else wants, ie a sharp fall in the exchange rate.

Why then, does New Labour do it? One answer could be they believe it. The other is that they believe they ought to appear to believe it. The second explanation is supported by a defensive, if not almost shifty, tone in which Brown, Blair and others often support the policy. And, in the event, my contact who told me, "The Keynesian debate is lost", has asked not be named. Why not, I wonder?

So we have to explain why New Labour believes in supply-side economics, or why they should feel they must appear to do so, or a mixture of the two. If the answer is the former, they are in a very large company, including a high proportion of professional economists under the age of 40.

I believe that the "paradigm shift" in my profession was mainly caused by two things, the traumatic experiences of inflation and stagflation in the 1970s and late 1980s, and some important theoretical defects in Keynes's formulation of his theory.

Both represent quite complicated stories and for my version of them I can only refer readers to yet another book, my Reconstructing Keynesian Economics (Edward Elgar, 1991).

Harold Wilson indicated privately that controlled devaluation would be a good idea. It didn't happen and Labour lost the 1970 election

In the typically low-inflation conditions of the world today (Russia is not typical), inflation-paranoia is quite unwarranted. Nevertheless, as is well known, economic ideas are slow to change. But I do not find convincing the hypothesis that New Labour's macroeconomic posture is simply the result of intellectual inertia. If that were the case one would not expect it to have hardened as it has done over time.

So we move to the proposition that New Labour feels a need to endorse supply-sideism, for better or for worse, as part of the programme for winning re-election. Why might they feel that? One answer is fear of being brought down, yet again, by the bankers.

Another is a hidden pact with Middle England, who might prefer a programme for making workers more productive to a programme of sucking untransformed workers into employment by means of demand expansion, raising their relative wages in the process.

However, previous Labour governments were not brought down by bankers but by trade unions, who effectively sabotaged the post-war Keynesian consensus. That danger no longer exists. It was abolished by the Conservatives. As to the possible pact with Middle England, given that it is based on the fallacy that jobs can be created by supply-side measures alone, it is inherently liable to backfire.

There has to be a wholesale reconstruction of the mental framework of macroeconomic policy. No doubt under some other name, social welfare must become the explicit fundamental target. Tony Atkinson, Warden of Nuffield College, Oxford, has already suggested a poverty target, but a social welfare target would be more embracing.

Amartya Sen, Master of Trinity College, Cambridge, has suggested a simple formula for social welfare which sets the positive effects of average prosperity against the negative effects of inequality.

Then New Labour's original plan for an Economic Council, with teeth, to be chaired inside the Treasury must be revived; or if not, some other effective plan must be adopted. The MPC could remain but would now be instructed to conduct monetary policy under the overriding target of social welfare.

Progress against the target would be measured and frequently reported by an independent commission. Government policy, on the supply and demand side, would react appropriately.

Last week's Guardian article discussing similar ideas, suggested the required U-turn would be so embarrassing that it simply couldn't happen. If that is true, the political prospect is disturbing.

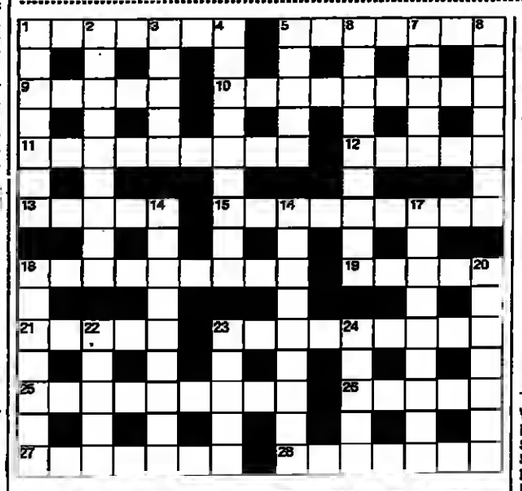
It reminds me of a time when, in company with the then less-known Nigel Lawson, I debated on TV with prime minister Harold Wilson the desirability of a controlled devaluation of sterling, in order to forestall the dangers of an uncontrolled one. To the audience he was negative, but by signs to me he more or less indicated he knew it would be a good idea though for political reasons "it wasn't going to happen".

The result is history. There was in due course an uncontrolled devaluation and Labour lost the general election of 1970. Something similar happened to John Major. Please let it not happen to New Labour. Of course, the issue today is unemployment, not the exchange rate as such, but the political problem is the same. Political fear leads to political disaster.

Robin Marris is Professor Emeritus of Economics at Birkbeck College

Guardian Crossword No 21,373

Set by Crispa



Across

1 A parking period which is set (7)
5 Individual who's paid for correcting the spelling of letters (7)
9 The fare's about a pound, and that's too much (5)
10 Sort of vegetable for a person to leave? (9)
11 Blockhead edges by sound element (9)
12 Pole in space making lists (5)
13 Greek character taken in by the City's legendary tales (5)
15 Spiritless rendering of an item in a broadcast (9)
18 Temperate land mass (9)
19 In Britain at most a million people speak this language (5)
21 Coppers long for a sports field (5)
23 Negotiated with lawyers — and won! (9)
25 Put out, but finding some way back inside scoffed (9)
26 Being flexible, left it to the man (5)
27 Keeping the Latin Quarter in view is an artful trick (7)
28 Ladies have reasons for changing (7)

Down

1 Genial but very noisy sailing man dropped in the drink (7)
2 In favour of seeing some stipulation made (9)
3 Great water for commercial business being tax-free! (5)
4 Rate increase causing delay (9)
5 Reason a nurse is given directions (5)
6 A health worker may well find a trip's the solution (9)
7 Not bound to be licentious (5)
8 A painter should appear above suspicion in the struggle to succeed (3,4)
14 Give voice about the answer that's insulting (9)
16 The bar atory with neat twist (9)
17 Carpet a number before church (9)
18 City outskirts drive where there's soma greenery (7)
20 Many won't work on a ship without cover (7)
22 A flash — a little electric energy discharge (5)
23 Making a note as to unusual crow (5)
24 Tired of everything trendy (3,2)

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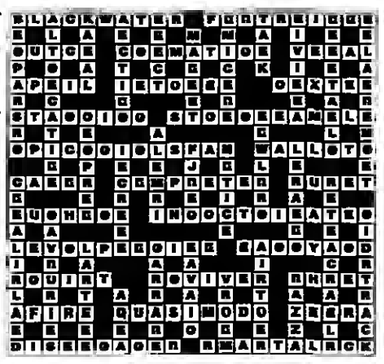

WINNERS OF BANK HOLIDAY PRIZE PUZZLE 21,366

This week's winners of a Collins English Dictionary are Sue Long and Colin Westman of Peckham, London; J N Busbridge of Willersey, Nr Broadway; Mary Smith of Laverstock, Salisbury; Allan Styles of Canterbury, Kent; Shellagh Holmes of Leamington Spa, Warwickshire; Steve Perring of Shirley Solihull, West Midlands; Philip E Box of West Wimbledon, London; Brian Precious of Holmbridge, Huddersfield; R Smith of Shooters Hill, London; Patricia Swanton of Otley, West Yorkshire.

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Recycled paper made up 41.4% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1997

ABFPRST

The Russian gangsters who go by the book

Worm's eye

Dan Atkinson

THE best free show in town, heat comedy show that is, is the sight of the entire rogues' gallery of media apologists for tha free market attempting to "explain" what has gone wrong in Russia.

Adding to the jollity is the eerie similarity with the lame excuses you got 20-odd years ago when challenging one of those bedraggled chaps selling Militant outside the local Safeway.

Just as our donkey-jackat-wearing friend would claim, somewhat implausibly, that communism had not failed in Russia because "it has never been tried", so the vapid spokesmen for the financial interest worldwide hasten into print to allege that the last seven years have seen not Russian capitalism but something else.

That something else is usually described as "gangsterism". A new line is being drawn between market democracy (that's the aqueaky-clean variety of capitalism practised by us) and tha mafia-ridden pseudo-capitalism as practised in the former Soviet Union. Some even suggest that because some of the "gangsters" running privatised entities are ex-Party or ex-KGB, and because cannot therefore really be said to be privatised, gangsterism is actually communism by other means.

But "gangsterism" is not some regrettable malfunction of an improperly-run market system, but one of its building blocks. In an excellent book on the much-maligned Luddites, Kirkpatrick Sale lists some startling data about the enclosure phenomenon from 1770 to 1830. Parliament passed 3,280 bills handing over six million acres of common land to private hands. "Private arrangements without parliamantary approval probably added nearly as many acres during this sama period, the total acreage being equivalent to more than half of all land then in cultivation in England."

Millions of peasants ware driven off the land and into the slum factories of the new capitalist class. With the destruction of rural living went the destruction of independent craft industries. The supposedly neutral legislature did all it could to promote the triumph of these home-grown mafiosi to such an extent that Hilaire Belloc described the governance of the time as constituting "a servile state".

So, it seems a bit rich to tear into Russia'a would-be robber barons. After all, they're only doing it by the book.

Rebels Against The Future; Kirkpatrick Sale; Quartet; 1996.

Tourist rates – bank sells

Australia 2.756	Germany 2.813	Malaysia 6.378	Singapore 2.86
Austria 19.72	Greece 486.74	Malta 0.624	South Africa 10.20
Belgium 56.09	Hong Kong 12.60	Netherlands 3.165	Spain 238.24
Canada 2.50	India 71.35	New Zealand 3.21	Sweden 12.90
Cyprus 0.827	Ireland 1.113	Norway 12.61	Switzerland 2.308
Denmark 10.77	Israel 6.439	Portugal 285.81	Turkey 446,890
Finland 8.648	Italy 2,792	Saudi Arabia 6.18	USA 1.627
France 9.411			

Supplied by NatWest (excluding rupee, shekel and rouble)

Indicators

TODAY — GER: Industrial production (Jul).
US: Labour Day holiday.
TOMORROW — JP: Wholesale prices (Aug).
UK: Industrial production (Jul).
NER: Labour market report (Aug).
JP: Bank of Japan monetary policy committee meeting.
WEDNESDAY — GER: GDP (Q2).
THURSDAY — GER: Consumer prices (Aug).
UK: CBI distributive trades survey (Aug).
US: Current account (Q2).
FRIDAY — SP: CPI (Aug).
EUR: European Central Bank meeting.
US: Producer prices (Aug).
Source: HSBC Markets Limited.

Dirty words dusted off, page 11

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FinanceGuardian

600 Vickers jobs at risk

Newcastle waits for another blow

Nicholas Bannister, Chief Business Correspondent

WORKERS in northern England faca another hammer blow as engineering and defence group Vickers is threatening to close a plant if it is unahle to secure new orders for its tank-manufacturing outlet in Newcastle upon Tyne.

A Vickers spokesman yesterday confirmed that the group would have to close either its Newcastle or Leeds tank plant if it is unable to secure significant orders for its Challenger 2 battle-tank "pretty soon".

The Leeds factory, which is similar in size to Newcastle's, is thought to be marginally more secure since it has a testing track in additioo to its manufacturing facilities.

The threat to the Newcastle plant, which employs about 600 people, emerged hard on the heels of the loss of 1,600 jobs in the region as a result of the closure of semiconductor plants owned by Germany's Siemens and Japan's Fujitsu electronics groups.

Vickers is chasing hig tank orders from Greece and South Africa. However, it faces strong competition from Germany's Krauss Maffei group.

A spokesman said that the group had still to build 270 of the 300 Challengers for the British Army, and would be forced to consider making them at a single plant if new orders were not secured.

There is a chance that some, if not all, tha jobs could be saved if the Government implemented proposals made in the July strategic defence review to outsource tank storage and maintenance, and decide instead to award the contract to Vickers.

Ten days ago Vickers executives met defence minister Doug Henderson — in whose constituency the Newcastle plant is situated — together with union representatives to explain the situation.

City analysts believe that Vickers is struggling, despite having recently sold Rolls-Royce Motor Cars to Volkswagen for £470 million.

Industry sources suggest that Vickers conld be forced to revive talks about a merger of its defence interests with GKN, which damaged the company's prospects by securing the multi-billion pound contract to supply European armed forces with armoured vehicles known as battlefield taxis. GKN was part of a winning consortium including Krauss Maffei, and is known to favour the creation of a single European manufacturer in the sector.

Vickers has returned about half the proceeds of the Rolls-Royce Motor Cars sale to shareholders through a special dividend.

Its chairman, Sir Colin Chandler, has said that he intends to use the funds left to boost its other operations — defence and marine propulsion systems — either through direct investment or through acquisition.

The group has topped up its war chest with the £117 million it has received from the sale of its Cosworth engineering business to VW.

Last month, the German motor group revealed that it had reluctantly passed on the Rolls-Royce car marque to BMW, but that it was retaining the Bentley marque with a view to increasing its production substantially.

Vickers decided to sell the Rolls-Royce and Bentley business because it no longer felt able to provide the investment needed to develop new models and sustain a business which operated in a highly cyclical market.

It believed that Rolls would have greatar opportunities and more satisfactory rates of return if it was owned by a large automotive group.

Airbus overtakes troubled Boeing

David Gow, Industrial Editor

AIRBUS, the European aircraft consortium rapidly stealing a march on its bigger and troubled US rival, Boeing, is set to unveil orders worth more than $3 billion (£1.8 billion) at this week's Farnborough international air show.

The biennial show, opened today by Tony Blair, is expected to see Airbus announce orders and options for 20 of its A340 aircraft from the United Arab Emirates and the International Lease Finance Group. The deal could net Rolls-Royce $1 billion in engine orders.

But the four-nation Airbus consortium, in which British Aerospace has a 20 per cent stake, could take up to virtually the end of next year to agree its transformation into a publicly-owned company.

Yves Michot, chief executive of French state-owned Aerospatiale, which has a 38 per cent stake, said yesterday the January 1, 1999, deadline for making Airbus a "single corporate entity" could be extended by six to nine months.

This week's orders will confirm that Airbus has overtaken Boeing as market leader in new orders this year and follows last month's decision by British Airways to make a historic switch from Boeing to order 188 short-haul Airbus jets.

BA knocked £1 billion off the initial £3 billion price, prompting renewed US criticism that Airbus relies heavily on state subsidies. But American analysts, such as Bill Price, vice-president of the aerospace consultants EDS-ATKearney, expect Boeing to hit back this week with a series of civil, defence and space orders.

"Boeing is a much more balanced company and does not have to go at the civil market in the same dimension as Airbus," he said yesterday.

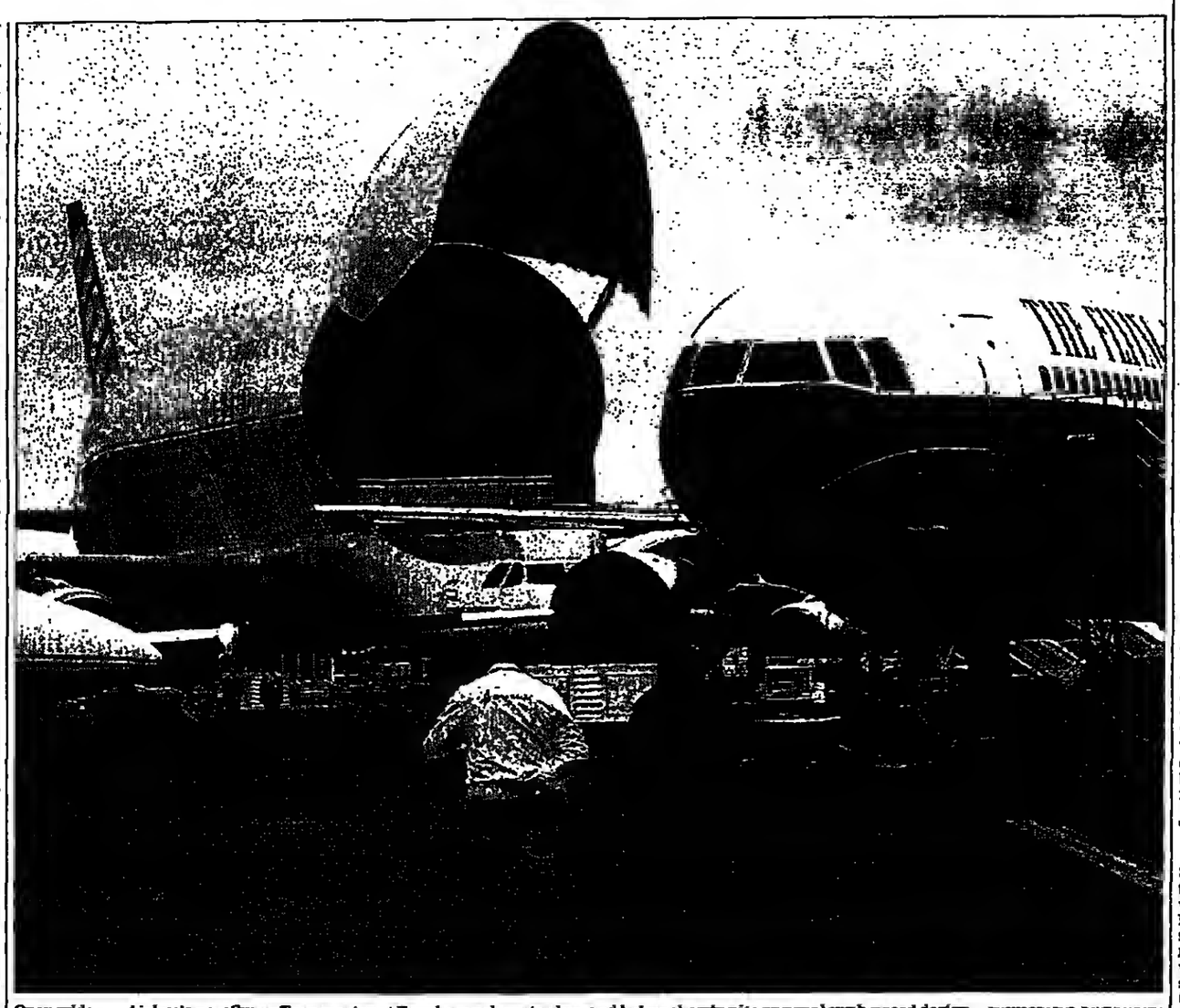
Mr Michot, meanwhile, confirmed that the complex nature of assembling assets from four separate companies into one would delay Airbus's change to plc status. The other two partners are Germany's Daimler-Benz Aerospace (Dasa), with 38 per cent, and Spain's Casa with 4 per cent.

But he took sharp issue with BAe's new chief executive, John Weston, who said recently that Airbus's transformation could wait until a "hig bang" merger of Europe's aerospace and defence companies into a single company, Euroco.

"We are working on the European company. It's clear the two files are related as Airbus represents half the [aerospace] activity in Europe. But there is no connection, currently or foreseen, between the Airbus negotiations and the discussions on the European company," he said.

Both BAe and Dasa have said French government plans partially to privatise Aerospatiale by merging its defence interests with those of Lagardère, reducing the state's holding to 46 per cent, do not go far enough. They have prompted speculation they might merge their own interests instead.

But Mr Michot said: "I am not entertaining the idea of a merger between BAa and Dasa." He derided what he called an "Anglo-Saxon fantasy" about state control of his company's affairs.



Open wide . . . Airbus's new Super Transporter at Farnborough yesterday, and below showing its unusual snub-nosed design PHOTOGRAPHS: DAVE CALLIKIN

Golf's super-alloy gets off the green

A REVOLUTIONARY new alloy used in golf clubs to maka reaching the green in two shots — or even one — much easier is to be unveiled as the future material for making components for aero-engines and airframes at this week's Farnborough international air show, *writes David Gow.*

Howmet, a subsidiary of the American firm Cordant Technologies — which makes tha rockat propulsion system for tha Challenger space shuttle — is to put on show the first jet-engine comprassor blades made from Vitreloy, a metallic glass alloy invented by scientists in California.

James Stanley, a Howmet senior vice-president, said yesterday that tha alloy is two to three times stronger than titanium or stainless steel, significantly harder than these and substantially more resistant to corroalon and bas already transformed the golf world by enabling players to hit the ball further.

Howmet, with two plants in Exeter, is casting the heads of irons and putters and the blades of drivers for Liquid Metal Golf, owned by Amorphous Technologies. Mr Stanley said it is already making 2,300 blades a day, with turnover set to increase this year to $35 million (£21 million) from only $100,000 in 1997. Japanese demand is said to be exceptionally high.

But the corporation, which makes components for aero-engines built by the world's three largest firms — General Electric, Pratt & Whitney and Rolls-Royce — says Vitreloy's properties make it suitable for use in engines for powerboats, as well as in aerospace. Mr Stanley said Vitreloy components could appear in aero-engines in about two years' time.

BNFL courts its critics

Paul Brown, Environment Correspondent

BRITISH Nuclear Fuels, the state-owned reprocessing and waste-management company, has invited its sternest critics to a secret meeting to discuss the company's business prospects and policy.

Senior officials from government departments will join environmental group leaders and 15 BNFL executives in confidential talks tomorrow at a luxury hotel in Chester.

BNFL asked the Environment Council, an independent charity, to manage the meeting so that where possible "consensus" could be reached with critics on issues facing the company.

A spokesman said: "In the current climate of uncertainty facing the company we decided we should talk to our critics in a non-confrontational way to see if we can reach common ground on what the future might be."

The talks come as the company is pressing ministers and the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate to aanction moves to prolong the lives of their eight ageing Magnox reactors, now responsible for producing 8 per cent of the country's electricity.

Senior executives argued last week that this would enable the Government to meet its own targets for reducing carbon dioxide emissions.

The recent decision at Sintra, Portugal, of 15 European countries, including the UK, that nuclear discharges into the sea should be cut to near zero by 2020 has led critics to question whether reprocessing could continue at the Sellafield plant after then.

John Taylor, the company's chief executive, argued last week that BNFL could easily meet the Sintra target.

The company has won a contract worth up to $6.9 billion (£4.1 billion) to clean up US nuclear waste, but its plans to use reprocessed plutonium to market a new mixed oxide fuel have run into delays at home.

You're over the hill at 29

Age of anxiety for graduates, says NICHOLAS BANNISTER

YOU'RE 29, with a good degree and a happy love-life. Yoo think everything is going well and are on top of the world. Think again.

You could soon be a victim of ageism — over the hill in employment terms, facing the dole or drifting in and out of unsatisfactory work.

The Employers Forum on Age and the Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Service fears that hidden ageism is preventing mature graduates from getting jobs.

"This type of ageism can hit peopis as young as 29 and has serious business and social implications," said the two bodies, announcing a joint investigation into the issue.

They claimed that many employers had failed to alter their recruitment policies to reflect the sharp rise in older graduates over the past 10 years — more than one in seven graduates are now aged 26 or older.

Helen Garner, campaign director of the EFA, said: "We have been alarmed by the increase in mature graduates contacting us to say they are having problems with finding employment. It is clear that some employers are rejecting a potentially rich pool of labour. But some individuals are being led to believe that they are 'over the hill' by the time they are 29 years old, and that is damaging for society as a whole."

The Government has launched initiatives to highlight the problem of ageism at work, but the two organisations said there was a natural assumption that those affected were older workers.

Lawrence Wilson of Agcas said: "Even if there are no formal age limits, some employers have a traditional image of who is suitable for graduate entry schemes. This psycha is buried quite deep"

American Notebook

Greenspan balm for barmy markets

Mark Tran

THE Federal Reserve chairman, Alan Greenspan, finally told the world what it wanted to hear when he signalled the readiness of the US central bank to cut interest rates if the global currency crisis deteriorates. Mr Greenspan's remarks came in a speech after Friday's close in another volatile day of trading in US markets, so first reaction will come today — not in the US, however, because markets are closed for the Labour Day holiday.

In a speech at the University of California, Berkeley, the world's most powerful central banker said the Fed's priorities had changed in the past few months. The overriding concern during spring and summer was the prospect of renewed inflation in the US. But by August, inflation fears were giving way to worries about growing economic turmoil around the world.

"By the time of the Federal Open Market Committee's August meeting, the risks had become balanced and the committee will need to consider carefully the potential ramifications of ongoing developments since that meeting," said Mr Greenspan, in a hint that the Fed is prepared to cut interest rates, a move widely advocated by many economists. Such action would aid developing countries saddled with dollar-denominated debt and provide a psychological boost to investors who fear the global economy is caught in a deflationary spiral.

Many analysts have expressed concern that the Fed would focus too narrowly on the state of the US economy, where labour markets are tight, and neglect the turmoil beyond American shores. Mr Greenspan sought to allay those concerns by declaring: "It is just not credible that the United States can remain an oasis of prosperity unaffected by a world that is experiencing greatly increased stress."

THE Fed is not expected to lower rstes at its next policy meeting on September 29, leaving short term rates at 5.5 per cent, where they have been since March 1997. But Mr Greenspan's words were highly significant at a time when the world is crying out for reassurance and leadership since the fall of economic dominos started by Thailand's devaluation in the summer of 1997. Mr Graenspan's remarks should provide some calm for the markets, especially his comment that "periods of euphoria or distress tend to feed on themselves".

There is not moch euphoria on Wall Street these days. The Dow Jones Industrial Average suffered a 512-point drop on Monday, with more than 900 million shares changing hands. It came hock 288 points the next day, but resumed its downward path for the rest of the week. The Dow ended the week down 400 points at 7840.25, after hitting a record of 9337.97 in July. Instead of making a run at 10,000, investors are nuw looking at the prospect of a Dow heading back to 7000.

A few hulls remain out there, notably Abby Cohen, the influential market guru from Goldman Sachs. The day after the Dow's 512-point drop, she recommended boosting equity holdings and reducing cash. She argued that the US economy, although not immuna from weak global economic conditions, is well-cushioned hy several factors such as the size and momentum of domestic demand and a diversified mix of trading partners.

But Mrs Cohen is virtually alona in her optimistic assumptions. Most analysts expect company profits to decline for the third quarter, a development that could further weaken share prices. Profits-growth estimates for the third quarter were revised — from 8.6 per cent on July 17, when the market peaked to 3.2 per cent — on September 1 by First Call, a research firm. "It's clear that the impact from Asia has been longer and deeper than most people thought," notes Charles Hill, director of research at First Call.

OF CRITICAL importance to the market is the health of the US banking sector. Several banks have already reported big losses from their exposure to Russia. Chase Manhattan took a $200 million (£120 million) charge for July and August and Bankers Trust released estimates of trading losses from Russia of $350 million. Accordingly, the banking sector has taken a pounding from investors.

And the full impact of the global contraction has yet to be felt by the banking sector. Nasty surprises are likely to emerge from derivatives losses. Capital Market Risk Advisors estimates total Russian derivatives exposure could be $65 billion. if Latin America — where US banks are heavily exposed — follows Russia, the US banking sector could be in real trouble.

Much will depend un mutual fund shareholders. So far, individual American investors have not fled the markets en masse, despite a 20 per cent fall in the Dow since its July peak. But the flow of money into mutual funds has slowed in this latest retreat, depriving the market of one of the engines sending it so high so fast. Mutual fund investors have not been aggressive sellers in this decline, but this could change if investors see their gains of the past few years wiped out.

Mr Greenspan once cautioned against irrational exuberance. Now he is having to warn against the opposite, asserting: "We have relearned in recent weeks that just as a bull stock market feels unending and secure as an economy and stock market move forward, so it can feel when markets contract that recovery is inconcaivable. Both, of course, are wrong."

Vodafone 'in talks with Airtouch'

This week

TWO of the world's largest mobile phone companies could this week announce a deal which would create a £40 billion group straddling the Atlantic. Vodafone, the leading British operator, is reported to be in talks with Airtouch, the second-largest US mobile phone company.

No change in interest rates is expected at Wednesday's meeting of the Bank's monetary policy committee.

TODAY — Interims: ASW, Haden Maclellan, Morgan Crucible, Travis Perkins, T&S Stores. Finals: Allied Leisure, City Tech, Dowding & Mills, Hays, Polyplex, Regent Inns, Whitbard of Chelsea.
TOMORROW — Interims: Britax, Capital Corp, Capital Industries, Delta, Dixon Motors, DRS Data & Research, Hunting, Independent Radio, Mithras Investment Trust, A&J Mucklow, TT, United Overseas. Finals: Alumasc, Compel, Cortecs, Dorling Kindersley, Redrow, JD Weatherspoon.
WEDNESDAY — Interims: Abbott Mead Vickers, Alliance Unichem, BG, Britannic Assurance, Dairy Farm Int, Hong Kong Land, Kingfisher, Mandarin Oriental, PTS. Finals: FW Thorpe, Verity.
THURSDAY — Interims: Bovis Homes, British Aerospace, Dolphin Packaging, Jardine Matheson, Jardine Strategic, Kwik-Fit Holdings, Wm Morrison Supermarkets, Next, Trinity, Wolstenholme Rink.
FRIDAY — Interims: Fortnum & Mason, Hammerson, Itnet. Finals: Pacific Horizon.

DKB banking team poached by Salomon

Jill Treanor

ONE OF the City's best-known teams of analysts covering the banking sector has been poached by Salomon Smith Barney, the American financial institution.

The move seriously damages coverage of banking at Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, where the team worked until last week. Although job moves are commonplace in the City, it is unusual for an entire team to leave at once.

Simon Samuels, Nick Lord and Stuart Young topped the 1998 Reuters survey of larger companies, and scored third in the 1998 Extel survey for their analysis of the British banking sector. Their colleague, Jeremy Sigee, is also joining Salomon to cover the European banking sector.

Rivals described the move as a reflection of American-owned Salomon's determination to boost its coveroge of European banking stocks.

Salomon, however, said the analysts' arrival would allow it increased research into UK banks and building societies.

هكذا من الأصل

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The Guardian
Sport
Monday September 7 1996 www.football.guardian.co.uk

England still without a win in Sweden since 1937

David Lacey in Stockholm on the fall-out from the 2–1 setback to Sweden, their first away defeat in qualifying for five years

Everything goes haywire for Hoddle

Ince red card sees him join Beckham on the sidelines for Bulgaria game

GLENN HODDLE's England team is beginning to dissolve before his eyee. Just how eoluhle his interest in remaining England's coach proves to be may well depend on the next match, at home to Bulgaria on October 10.

No sooner hed England hegun their attempt to qualify for the 2000 European Championship hy losing 2–1 to Sweden on Saturday than Hoddle was heing cross-examined about the possibility of his returning to White Hart Lane as manager, Christian Gross having conveniently parted company with Tottenham a few hours earlier.

Hoddle trotted out the standard line about having two years to go on his present contract and that talks with the Foothall Association about an extension were pending, and that if every England manager whose team performed badly in September were to walk out the post would have changed hands a couple of dozen times by now.

Nevertheless, the present incumbent has had easily the worst weekend since he took over from Terry Venables two years ago. Apart from anything else Hoddle is the first England manager-coach to lose an opening qualifier.

On the morning of Saturday's game, after all the hubbub over Hoddle's World Cup diary and Tony Adams's criticism of him in a book published today, Sky televison hroadcast a recorded interview with Eileen Drewery, the faith healer and long-time confidant of the England coach. Drewery came over as a mixture of Florence Nightingale and Sarah Gamp but her faith is unshakeable and she is a strong personality, qualities normally demanded of a successful foothall manager.

If Drewery can help get Darren Anderton back on his feet after yet another knee injury, which brought on Robert Lee shortly before half-time, then all well and good. What is more at issue is Hodla'e belief in a way of playing which contributed to the defeat by Romania in the World Cup and is already threatening England'e qualification for Euro 2000.

Now there are doubts not merely about the wisdom of persisting with 3-5-2 but Hoddle's ability to raise e quorum of international quality in midfield for the Bulgaria match. Paul Ince, sent off on Saturday for two bookings, is snspended for that game, David Beckham will be completing a two-match ban after his red card against Argentina in the World Cup and at the moment David Batty is unfit.

Lee, Ray Parlour, Nicky Butt, and Steve McManaman will all come into the equation, while the perceptive passing of Jamie Redknapp enhanced England's midfield in the Rasunda Stadium until the Swedes upped the pace and left him behind. But with a rebuilt Bulgarian side eager to prove itself at Wembley, this is a bad time for England to be running short of established players in any area.

David Seaman was not wholly to blame for Sweden's goals but he was partly at fault with both, just as he had been in Rotterdam five years earlier

Not that there was ever a good time for a goalkeeper to have a bad match. David Seaman was not wholly to blame for Sweden's goals but he was partly at fault with both, just as he had been in Rotterdam five years earlier when Holland beat Graham Taylor's team 2-0 in the World Cup. This was England's first defeat in an away qualifier since then.

In front of Seaman, Hoddle's three-man defence pitched and tossed around a floundering Adams. Sol Campbell, eventually forced off with a hip injury, and Gareth Southgate were able to cover his mistakes up to a point but yet again the ball was rarely played from the hack to any constructive purpose.

In attack the reluctance of Michael Owen, ineffective after an early caution for a two-footed foul on Petrik Andersson, to drop deeper to link up the play *à la* Teddy Sheringham did not help the persevering Alan Shearer and both strikers lacked decent service.

Shearer thought he should have had a penalty in stoppage time and certainly there was contact with Roland Nilsson's outstretched leg, but the England captain had gone down a little too easily for the liking of Pierluigi Collina, the Italian referee.

Systems are only as good as the players within them and the principal reason why England lost in Stockholm, having taken the lead after a mere 74 seconds, is that too many inidividnel performances fell way below par.

When a hitherto humdrum Swedish sida suddenly scored twice around the half-hour Hoddle's team failed to respond, the passing fell apart, the opposition chased and tackled like demons thereafter and the dismissal of Ince after 66 minutes left England to save the game with 10 men.

Ince was the sixth England player to be sent off in internationals and the second in successive matches. While he will hardly experience the vilification suffered by Beckham, Ince's behaviour was no less reprehensible.

Having been cautioned for a foul on Jorgen Petterson, the Liverpool player received a second yellow card, followed by the red, for a reckless high challenge from behind on Henrik Larsson, whom he then attempted to haul up by the dreadlocks.

On being dismissed by Collina, Ince then mouthed obscenities at the referee, accompanied by digital gestures, as he was ushered away by Shearer.

Hoddle's view of the incident was bland. "Ince tried to retrieve a ball given e little bit short for him," he said. "Paul had got goalside of Larsson, tried to nick the ball and got punished for it." When Collina has studied the video evidence of Ince's reactioo the player may be punished for more than that.

All three goels in the match punished poor goalkeeping. Magnus Hedman, having lined up the wall for Shearer's free-kick, promptly stood behind it and was beaten by a shot in off the far post.

After 30 minntes the strength of Stefan Schwarz's free-kick surprised Seaman, who could only push it out to Andreas Andersson. His mishit shot took a deflection off Adams and then spun into the net despite a second attempt by Seaman to keep it out. Two minutes later Pontus Kaamark's centre ricocheted off Scholes and Johan Mjallby scored with a header which might have been prevented by Seaman being quicker off his line.

Mjallby and the 21-year-old Fredrik Ljungherg, whose speed and ability to find space near goal plagued England for most of the match, were the evening's outstanding players. And as Tommy Soderberg, the Swedish coach, pointed out, they were the only part-time professionals on the pitch, although Hoddle could have given him an argument about that.

"After an ideal start our passing went haywire," the England coach reflected. "A few people out there could heve played better and we didn't do enough to turn the game around.

"Losing is not a disaster at this stage in the qualifiers hut it's taken us back a step. Certainly the game against Bulgaria at Wembley is now one we've got to win."

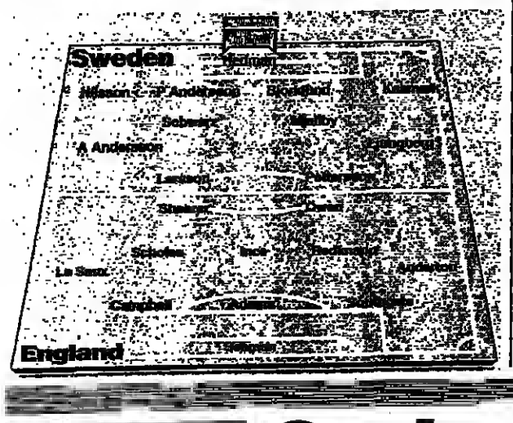
Nobody could doubt that. Failing to heat Bulgaria would further harm England's chances of qualifying automatically for Euro 2000 by winning their group, and only the best-placed runner-up will be spared the chore of a two-leg play-off for the remaining eight places.

In the meantime the bookmakers are continuing to shorten the odds against Hoddle still being England coach at the end of the this season. It really is a funny old way to earn a living.

SUBSTITUTIONS: Swedens Lucic for Kaamark, 83min; D Anderson for A Andersson, 90.
Englands Lee for Anderton, 43; Merson for Campbell, 75; Sheringham for Scholes, 87.
Sent Off: Englands Ince.
Bookings: Swedens Schwarz.
Englands Owen, Ince, Redknapp.
Referee: P Collina (Italy).

Match stats

	Swe	Eng
Possession	56%	44%
Attempts on target	7	2
Attempts off target	3	1
Blocked attempts	2	2
Corners	9	7
Fouls	18	18
Offsides	0	6
Bookings	1	3
Sendings-off	0	1



Thinking it through . . . Glenn Hoddle contemplates changes as the capitulation begins KIERAN DOHERTY

Graham in frame for job at White Hart Lane

Graham . . . six trophies in his nine years at Arsenal

Martin Thorpe on the problems facing Alan Sugar if he replaces Christian Gross with a former manager of Spurs' arch-rivals

TOTTENHAM's chairman Alan Sugar must decide today whether to risk the further wrath of the clnb's fans and appoint George Graham, formerly in charge of thair arch-rivals Arsenal, as the next manager.

The Spurs director of football David Pleat, now in temporary charge of team affairs, is expected to recommend to Sugar that Graham be formally approached to replace Christiam Gross, who was sacked on Saturday after only 10 months in charge.

It is understood that Leeds United are already bracing themselves for the loss of Graham, who has long sought a return to London and would relish the chance to bring success to Spurs and put one over on Arsenal, the cluh that sacked him in 1995 over the bung scandal.

Sugar will have to weigh up not only the negative impact on already hostile supporters — they chanted for his resignation after the recent home defeat by Sheffield Wednesday — hut whether his own strict moral code runs to employing a man suspended for a year for accepting a bung.

Pleat will argue that Graham has the track record — six major trophies in nine years at Arsenal — to bring success to White Hart Lane.

But Spurs' frustrated supporters will take some convincing. After Ossie Ardiles' tactics proved too cavalier, Gerry Francis's approach too pragmetic and Gross was found out of his depth, the fans are desparate for e manager capable of producing success as well as exciting football. They will not be happy with a former Gunner.

"If he won the Double in the first season then people might take to him," said Bernie Kingsley, chairman of the Tottenham Independent Supporters Association yesterday. "But the guy would have to work six times as hard and be mnch more successful than anybody else to prove himself. And with every slip it's always going to be, 'Well, he's an Arsenal man, so we should never have appointed him'.

"Also the style of football he played at Arsenal doesn't obviously match up with the Spurs' traditions. If anything this appointment will add to the pressure on Sugar."

Others being mentioned as candidates to become Spurs' sixth manager in the seven years of Sugar's stewardship include Glenn Hoddle, Jürgen Klinsmann, Joe Kinnear, Kenny Dalglish, Raddy Antic and Graeme Souness.

The decision to sack Gross as head coach after only nine wins in 27 games was taken after that defeat by Sheffield Wednesday. Although he kept Spurs in the Premiership last season, his reign has been beset by bust-ups with players over his tactics and strict training regime.

Yesterday Gross said: "I didn't go, I had to go. There are different reasons hut i am not the person to say why. I am disappointed but for me the months I have spent in England have been e success. "I think it is too short to judge me and decide my fate. it is not a failure for me to be judged after three games, especially after a big win at Everton. i am not angry, I am disappointed and I am now looking forward.

"In my managerial career I have been very successful up to now. This is the first time results have not gone well for me but i have to deal with this in a positive way and I will do so."

In a somewhat bizarre scene, Sugar sat alongside Gross as he faced the media at the Lodge training ground. The chairman was casually dressed in an open-neck blue shirt and jeans while the ever-smart Gross cut a dash in a light-coloured suit with shirt and tie.

Sugar revealed he had made up his mind on Saturday morning. "Christian's departure is for internal reasons," he said. "I think one has to say we were faced with an untenable situation created, with all due respect, by the media. We, the board, felt that Christian — no matter how professional or how good he is — had been destroyed by the media. It is as simple as that."

The Graham years

1944 Born in Bargeddie, Scotland.
1966 Joins Arsenal from Chelsea for £50,000.
1971 Key member of League and FA Cup double side.
1972 Leaves Highbury for Manchester United after collecting first of 12 Scotland caps.
1977 Retires and works as part-time barman before taking coaching job at QPR.
1982 Joins Millwall as manager, guiding them to promotion three years later.
1986 Becomes the Arsenal manager in May.
1987 Wins Littlewoods Cup in his first season.
1989 Guides Arsenal to their first League title for 18 years thanks to Michael Thomas'e injury-time goal at Anfield.
1991 Arsenal are champions again despite having two points deducted after an on-pitch brawl at Manchester United.
1993 Graham presides over an FA and Coca-Cola Cup double.
1994 Crowns brilliant Cup Winners' Cup campaign with 1–0 win over Parma. Accused in December of taking £285,000 "bung" in John Jensen transfer.
1995 Arsenal terminate contract on February 21 after e Premier League inquiry concludes he did not act in the best interests of the club.
1996 Graham's worldwide football ban ends June 30; becomes Leeds manager in September.
1998 Takes Leeds into Europe after they finish fifth in the Premiership.

Clogger

A sideways glance at soccer

Their kit don't fit

No. 44 Ian Wright

The bottom-baring season is well into its stride, and Wrighty shows he's lost none of his sharpness or the eye for an opportunity since leaving Highbury, the undisputed arse-revealing capital of British football.

Ince stress — Pallister sciatica — Leighton septic — Keane surgery

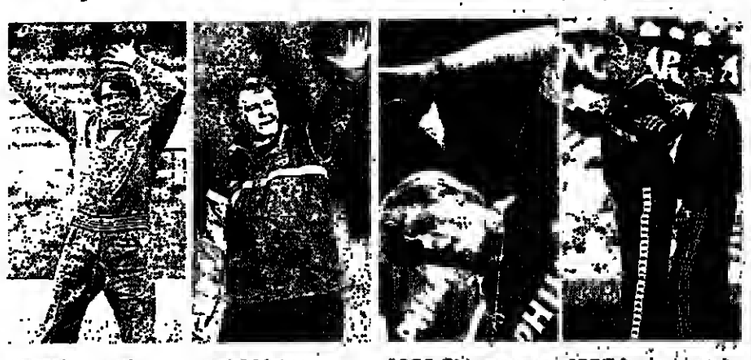
The Dog Ate My Homework XI

Man Utd's international absentees

Jim Leighton	v Italy, Dec 1988 — septic elbow
Gary Neville	v Mexico, March 1997 — ankle ligaments
Paul Parker	v Poland, Nov 1991 — old knee injury
Denis Irwin	v Liechtenstein, May 1997 — groin
Gary Pallister	v Poland, Nov 1991 — "sciatica due to new car seat"
Nicky Butt	v Sweden, Sep 1998 — wisdom teeth
Brian McClair	v Colombia, May 1988 — Man Utd friendly v Milan
David Beckham	v Chile, Feb 1998 — hamstring
Paul Ince	v Japan, June 1995 — "stress of court case"
Roy Keane	v Portugal, Nov 1996 — urgent hernia surgery
Ryan Giggs	v Georgia, Nov 1994 — ankle

A life in pictures

Bobby Robson



1979 Youngish manager of Ipswich. Waves vigorously with both arms

1986 Mature manager of England. Gestures tentatively with one arm

1990 Old manager of PSV. Stretches painfully with upper body

1996 Ancient coach of Barcelona. Flaps arthritically with assistant to hold him up

Ask the experts

HAS the FA Cup ever been lifted by a bearded captain? It certainly has, and within fairly recent memory too. Billy Bonds was the leader of the notoriously bearded West Ham teams that won in both 1975 and 1980 (Paddon, Pike, Lampard, Cross etc). However, Bonds himself (right, during the 1975 fifth-round tie against Arsenal) went unshaven only on the first occasion. **Lee Collins, London E16**

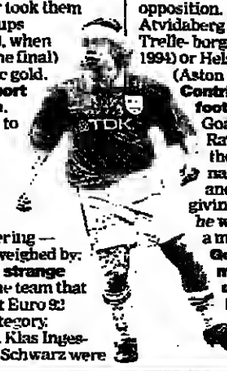
What was the most serious disability suffered by a professional player? While hardly professional, Luxembourg's Jeunesse Haut-charage sported a player with only one arm against Chelsea in the 1971-72 Cup Winners' Cup tie (lost 21-0 on agg). **James Hunt, Coulsdon, Surrey.**

Each week we will print answers to selected questions. This week: Which England one-cap wonder played for the national team for the fewest number of minutes? Which was the most garish combination of colours worn by any league team? Send answers and further questions to the address below, or post them on the Guardian's football bulletin board at football.guardian.co.uk/football/alltalk

State of the nation

Sweden

Population 8.5 million
Unlikely champions Orgryte IS, winners in 1965. Until then they hadn't won the title since 1928 — almost as implausible as Newcastle winning the Premiership.
Pioneer Robert Prytz, who played for Rangers in the early Eighties, has claims, but Bristol City's goalkeeper Jan Möller appears to be the first of the modern influx. He followed the coach Bob Houghton from Malmo in 1990 and played 48 games. Möller, "a great disappointment" according to Bob Wilson, was in the Sweden team that beat England 1-0 in a friendly in September 1966.
Import, export Houghton, who took Malmo to the European Cup final in 1979 (lost to Trevor Francis's dive on to the shot-put circle in Munich), was not the only English coaching legend in Sweden. George Raynor took them to two World Cups (including 1958, when they reached the final) and an Olympic gold.
Important import Roland Nilsson, the first Swede to play in an FA Cup final (for Sheffield Wednesday in 1993), has been Sweden's most impressive offering — though far outweighed by:
Strangers in a strange land Most of the team that beat England at Euro 92 fall into this category. Martin Dahlin, Klas Ingesson and Stefan Schwarz were among those who failed to settle, but Tomas Brolin, below, surely takes the cake.
Euro fighters Apart from Malmo and Gothenburg, twice Uefa Cup winners, Swedish clubs have regularly embarrassed English opposition. Don't mention Atvidaberg (Chelsea, 1971), Trelle-borgs (Blackburn, 1994) or Helsingborgs (Aston Villa, 1996).
Contribution to world football Goalkeeper Thomas Ravelli, who holds the record for international appearances despite always giving the impression he was minutes from a mental breakdown.
Gothenburg midfielder to line up with Raphael Meade in an International Beer XI Hakan Mild.



A-Z of British football

D ... is for 'dogs on the pitch': Once a popular diversion for the TV cameras, all-seater stadiums have largely rendered them obsolete. **Classic victim:** Lincoln City, relegated to the Conference in 1987 when Torquay scored in time added on after a dog bit United's Jim McNichol.

Refwatch

Pierluigi Collina

Home town Viareggio, on the Tuscany coast.
Home town's other claims to fame The spectacular Viareggio carnival, which takes place in February each year (Best float theme 1998: Bald World Cup Referees).
Occupation Financial adviser.
Trademark gesture Fixing terrified players with a hollow-eyed, other-wordly glare as he reproaches them from a distance of two inches. It's enough to give even Paul Ince nightmares.
Saturday's highlight Booking the nation's darling, Michael Owen.
Brandishes cards in the manner of ... An unblinking Dr Frankenstein pulling the lever.

The gaffer tapes

"It might surprise you but I was more worried when Croatia went down to nine men."
Mick McCarthy gets cocky with France 98's semi-finalists.

"If I could play the game again I would pick eight defenders."
Spain's **Javier Clemente** pays due respect to the fearsome firepower of Cyprus.

"I look at this job as the pinnacle of my career."
Laurie McMenemy, shortly before his Northern Ireland side went down 3-0 to Turkey.

Off the park life

Posh Italian restaurant — not bad for a sheet metal worker's son from Tyneside. But why was his attire judged to be inappropriate? Send your answer to the address below to win your choice of this month's new titles from the Football Book Club (0171-561 1606 for a catalogue). Please include a phone number.
Last week's answer Dennis Wise was on his way to Southwark Crown Court with his agent Eric Hall and solicitor Gary Jacobs for Wise's appeal against an assault conviction.
Winner Michael Sissons of London SE1

Clogger welcomes contributions. Write to the Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER. You can e-mail us at clogger@guardian.co.uk or fax us on 0171-713 4107

European Championship

Group Eight: Republic of Ireland 2 Croatia 0

McCarthy finds the answer

Michael Walker sees the Republic *get off to a flying* start in Dublin

Heady moments . . . Roy Keane celebrates his goal with Phil Babb and Robbie Keane PHOTOGRAPH: NEAL SIMPSON

NO WONDER there are times in Ireland when Mick McCarthy is referred to as Mick McBarnsley. There is something essentially Yorkshire about McCarthy and it was evident again in Dublin on Saturday evening. For a man who had just received the most telling justification yet of his 2½-year international managerial career, McCarthy's stance was still very front-foot-forward.

Earlier in the day his youthful Republic of Ireland side — average age 25 — may have snapped and crackled at Croatia until the third-best team in the world popped, a process that took all of 16 minutes. But McCarthy can also crackle, especially when he feels someone is having a pop at him. He clearly feels that is the case; he may be half right.

The Irish press, while no way comparable to their British tabloid cousins, are less deferential towards McCarthy than they were to his predecessor Jack Charlton, with McCarthy's tactics and selection policy during the failed World Cup qualifying campaign scrutinised in a manner Charlton's never were.

Given the differing circumstances and levels of achievements this is understandable, although McCarthy, reasonably perhaps for a man in a precarious profession, appears to be able to look at it only from a personal perspective. Thus, even in the immediate aftermath of this thrilling return to prominence for Irish senior football, McCarthy bristled at a routine question about "highs and lows".

"It's you lot who give the roller-coaster ride," was his answer. "I've had lots of highs and there have been lows but I've always said that when we had a full squad we would be a force to be reckoned with. And that was my full squad."

Later, when asked if he felt the players had proved a point for him, he replied: "I thought our players were brilliant but I didn't walk off thinking I'd been vindicated over any stick I'd taken. I'm not here for vindication."

Maybe that is not the way he sees it but it is still the way it is. All managers are dependent on their team's results and after this victory, the seventh in McCarthy's 25 matches in charge, he should be of the view that the jigsaw is coming together nicely.

Some problems remain — lack of cover up front and Phil Babb's worrying edginess being the most notable — but with Roy Keane back, Mark Kinsella instantly comfortable at this level and Robbie Keane hugely impressive, the overall picture is becoming clear.

Qualification for the Euro 2000 finals from a tricky group would be a major accomplishment and three of the hardest points are pocketed already. Another in Yugoslavia next month followed by three at home to Malta four days later would leave the Irish with a real sense of anticipation.

McCarthy would deserve huge credit, although so too would the supine Croatia. They were third best here all right — behind the Irish and the atmosphere. The suspicion was quickly confirmed that, missing the twin totems of Slaven Bilic and Davor Suker, the rest would go absent without leave if the Irish started fast and physically.

There had already been evidence of Croat timidity when Denis Irwin was tripped by Krunoslav Jurcic for a fourth-minute penalty, one Irwin coolly steered in, and Zvonimir Boban was to be seen expressing limp dissatisfaction just prior to Roy Keane heading the crucial second goal 12 minutes later. Thereafter Keane was the most mature Irish presence in the ground. Yes, true.

The two-goal cushion meant that the early injury to Keith O'Neill was less significant than it otherwise might have been. Tony Cascarino came on for O'Neill but McCarthy's other substitutions were of more relevance as to where the game had started to go. Jeff Kenna, a defender, replaced the sprightly Damien Duff at half-time and after the hour Lee Carsley, a defensive midfielder, came on for Robbie Keane.

The 18-year-old had squandered his moment of potential glory five minutes earlier but, none the less, some of his footwork showed that he is not the subject of hype alone.

However, his exit was a sign of Croatia's territorial dominance — though even so, Shay Given had to make only two saves — and the Irish did not fully relax until Jurcic and Mario Stanic were sent on later on for three fouls in quick succession on Steve Staunton.

Two-nil up against nine men, even McCarthy could have relaxed. After all, he was the only one of the five "home" managers watching his team win.

Group One: Wales 0, Italy 2

Misfortune favours the brave

Ian Ross watches a familiar story unfold as the dragon-hearts lose their way again

NOW here is a familiar story of daring-do and patriotic heroism, of brave boys and cruel misfortune.

The split is annoyingly familiar so brace yourselves: Tiny Wales are pitted against *a footballing giant and perform* well enough to preserve pride and win plaudits, but not well enough to win.

Afterwards the talk is of a campaign possibly over before it had begun and of what may happen in the months ahead and not what might have been in the minutes just past.

Wales currently stand at 103 in Fifa's world rankings, so to presume they would defeat an Italian side under new stewardship was to be believe in miracles.

As the Welsh coach Bobby Gould will tell you, while football often yields surprises, it is notoriously mean when it comes to miracles.

Gould was rather flustered afterwards, for few wish to discuss the day's rather bland main course, preferring instead of pick over the bones of a most divine aperitif.

Some 10 hours before kick-off Leicester City's Robbie *Savage was banished from the* Welsh camp after being found guilty of various misdemeanours by a kangaroo court convened, and acting, on behalf of, the Welsh nation.

His crime? He had naively succumbed to the promptings of a Sky television film crew and jokingly tossed into a hedge an Italian shirt bearing the name of Paolo Maldini.

Many were not amused by the severity of Savage's punishment and the subsequent disruption it caused within the Welsh camp so close to a game of such significance.

"He hardly heaped shame on the nation, did he?" said the former Welsh captain Barry Horne. Quite.

Anyway, later in the day, Gould — after pressure from some of his senior players — had a change of heart and allowed Savage to return to the fold as a substitute.

"He would have started the game had he not stepped out of line," admitted Gould, seemingly giving the speech he had prepared for any post-victory press conference.

Despite playing exceedingly *well, Wales never looked like* winning, only hinting at an upset early on when the adrenalin rush was at its most pronounced and before the less thoughtful members among their ranks forgot rule one, which stated, clearly, that the ball should be presented to Ryan Giggs at every opportunity.

Presumably, because he lacks the quality support he is afforded at club level, Giggs often disappoints on the international stage but on Saturday he shouldered the burden of responsibility gloriously.

And, but for the first of what was to become a procession of curious decisions by the Norwegian referee Terje Hauge, Giggs would have pushed Wales ahead after seven minutes. The Italian goalkeeper Angelo Peruzzi clearly handled the ball outside the area when preventing Giggs a decisive touch to a through ball.

Thereafter, the Welsh strategy embraced nothing grander than long balls for Nathan Blake to chase, something he did willingly but without any hint of an end product.

Gifted goal . . . Italy's Diego Fuser scores JULIAN HAMILTON

Wales were to be undone by a mixture of reckless defending and the sheer brilliance of the Italian forwards.

The opening goal was a joke, the sad punchline being provided by Chris Coleman, who performed so wretchedly it was difficult to believe he was not using the occasion to perversely remind us all that be *has now found his true* level at Fulham.

When Christian Panucci's cross from the right landed at his feet, Coleman had two logical options — either allow goalkeeper Paul Jones to collect, or belt the ball forwards, towards Blake, of course.

He chose neither, preferring instead to try and roll the ball towards Darren Barnard. The pass was woefully under hit allowing Diego Fuser to intercept and score.

Christian Vieri's marvellous goal 13 minutes from time, after glorious approach play from Eusebio Di Francesco. The substitute Roberto Baggio ended all the arguments in memorable style.

Group Three: Turkey 3 Northern Ireland 0

Turkish delightful as McMenemy's men flop

Malcolm Brodie in Istanbul

NORTHERN Ireland's inadequacies were cruelly exposed by Turkey in their opening European Championship qualifying game on Saturday.

It was an embarrassing performance and only the Manchester United midfielder Philip Mulryne emerged with his reputation untarnished.

Wales could not cope with the skill and pace of the Turks and might have lost by a much greater margin. Fortunately, the Turkish finishing did not measure up to their outfield play.

Northern Ireland had a disastrous World Cup campaign, winning only one of their 10 matches. Now it seems the abysmal saga could continue in the European series, although maximum points from two successive home matches against Finland and Moldova may help alleviate the situation.

The manager Lawrie McMenemy, appointed in February, must already realise the magnitude of the task he faces with such a limited supply of quality players. In contrast to his halcyon days as the England assistant manager to Graham Taylor, only three members of his squad are with Premiership clubs. The others are regularly on the bench or languishing in the reserves.

"I am extremely disappointed," said the Irish FA President Jim Boyce. "Too many of our players did not measure up to international standard. To maintain an interest in Europe we must win those next two games, otherwise it is a lost cause. Indeed, we were fortunate not to have suffered a heavier defeat."

Northern Ireland created only one chance throughout a one-sided 90 minutes, a header from Iain Dowie flashing past the post. Otherwise it was a story of total Turkish domination.

The Newcastle United winger Keith Gillespie made only a minimal contribution, but at least there was no reaction from the ankle injury that had kept him out since April.

"My only problem was losing my watch and bracelet," he said. "I left them in the pocket of my tracksuit and someone put a hand through the dressing-room window during the game and snatched them."

The home side broke the deadlock after 18 minutes when Gillespie lost possession. The ball broke to the full-back Abdullah Ercan whose 70 yard pass found Tugay Kerimoglu.

Stephen Morrow failed to get in a tackle, was beaten for pace, and the Turkish striker calmly lobbed the ball into the net over the head of advancing goalkeeper Alan Fettis.

The Turks' second came in the 47th minute from a Tayfur Havatcu penalty awarded after a Colin Hill foul just inside the box. Oktay Derelioglu got the third in the 58th minute after rounding the ponderous Hill.

Earlier the Northern Ireland substitute George O'Boyle had been struck on the face with a coin and Gillespie on the back of the neck by a plastic bottle when the squad came out to make their pitch inspection. A report has been sent to the Uefa by the commissioner Alexis Ponnet.

هكذا من الأصل

European Championship

Thinking the unthinkable on a crumbling colossus

Roy Collins says England's coach may tear up his master plan and axe Tony Adams

TONY ADAMS may have humiliated Glenn Hoddle with some of his observations in his ghost-written book. But he was never more embarrassing to England's coach than as the author of the team's latest worrying defeat.

Hoddle even left the merest suggestion hanging in the air, like any number of crosses into the England box, that he may need to put a match to his World Cup blueprint and draw up another. Hoddle said: "We'll have to look at it and maybe do things differently to the way we did them in France."

He did not have the time to develop the point. But among the many things not working in the England side, the back-three system is the most glaringly obvious. And Adams is the most uncomfortable of the three, his suspect fitness notwithstanding.

Adams is a colossus week in and week out for Arsenal, where he has played with the same familiar trio for years. He has proved that he can replicate that form at international level, though one of his finest games for England, that heroic effort against Argentina in France 98, came after the team had reverted to a back four.

Playing systems, however, are a matter of horses for courses or in this case, perhaps, "Donkeys" for courses. And Adams' lack of pace and mobility is cruelly exposed when he plays in a back three.

He was made so uncomfortable by the speed of the Swedish forwards that their coach Tommy Söderberg was able to say, matter-of-factly rather than boastfully: "The best players on the field were those from the Swedish League."

This leaves the embattled Hoddle with a dilemma. Does he abandon his cherished back-three-and-wing-backs system, throw in another defender and leave Adams at the centre of it? Or does he take the gamble of drafting in Rio Ferdinand, whose talents are ideally suited to the position but who is as yet unproven at international level?

Does Hoddle gamble on drafting in Rio Ferdinand, whose talents are suited but who is unproven?

The latter may turn out more appealing, particularly as there was a disturbing staleness about the England team in the Rasunda Stadium.

The captain Alan Shearer, who had warned before the game, in so many words, that some of his team-mates might be suffering from post-World Cup trauma, wondered aloud afterwards whether it had indeed affected them on the field.

Certainly, it was alarming to see a side crumble so swiftly. With the defence under so much pressure there was little or no service to Shearer or Michael Owen, while the wing-backs Darren Anderton and Graeme Le Saux never did much more than taxi down their runways.

Hoddle masked his hurt with the familiar psychobabble, saying: "We have got to get our aggressive heads on, our positive heads on, before we play our next match against Bulgaria."

If he can just persuade himself for once to use his head for the purpose for which it was designed, he may have to think the unthinkable: either Adams goes or the system goes.

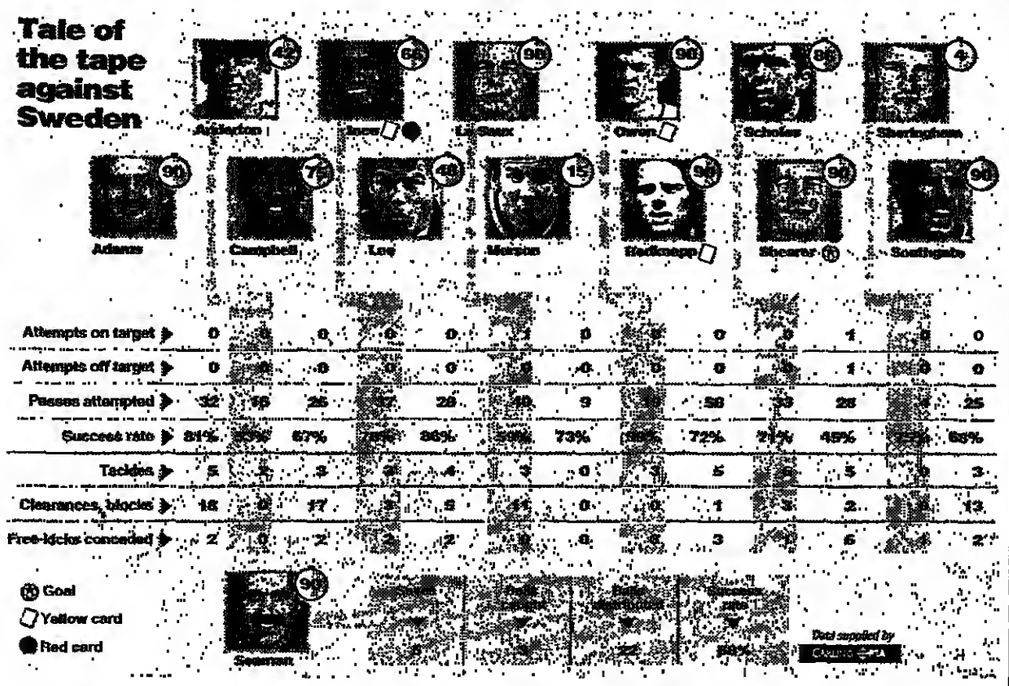
For all his words of support for Adams last week, Hoddle would have no compunction about dropping him from the side. Nobody was particularly fooled by their transparent show of matiness in the build-up to Saturday's game and Hoddle is a man of too huge an ego not to have been deeply wounded by some of the criticisms in Adams's book.

Adams will be under no illusions, either, having seen the way Paul Gascoigne was kidded into believing he was being nurtured back to a central role in England's midfield until he was ruthlessly axed on that notorious May afternoon in La Manga. And as Hoddle has said before: "I don't get mad, I get even."

Adams, in any case, is talking again of retirement at the end of the season, concerned about injury and the constant need to play while dosed up with painkillers.

He certainly seems unlikely to play in the European Championship of 2000, assuming England manage to qualify, which can no longer be taken for granted. So Hoddle, assuming he stays on as coach, may wish to start bedding in the defender's successor at once.

If there are many more performances like last Saturday's, Hoddle may not survive to complete phase two of his team-building. And the Football Association might find that they need to hand out painkillers to the crowd as well as to their players.



Slow motion . . . Tony Adams' lack of pace was cruelly exposed by the Swedish forwards during Saturday's 2-1 defeat in Stockholm PHOTOGRAPH: BEN RADFORD

Clemente taking the strain in Spain

Alasdair Fotheringham in Madrid

POPULAR and media agreement that Spain's 3-2 defeat in Cyprus in Group Six represents the country's greatest-ever football disaster has inevitably sparked renewed calls for the head of the national coach Javier Clemente.

The locals here were grumbling into their coffee yesterday as they read the newspapers in bars and the trainer's credibility, stretched to the limit after Spain were knocked out in the first round of the World Cup, has finally gone.

"Get out now!" was the headline splashed across Catalonia's El Mundo Deportivo while the heavyweight Madrid daily El País declared "Clemente's position is completely untenable".

Even one of the trainer's most faithful supporters, the influential radio reporter Jose Maria Garcia, argued that it was time for him to leave, saying: "He has forgotten how he used to organise the game. It's the end of an era." Callers to Garcia's popular late-night programme lined up to agree with him.

But the notoriously stubborn Clemente remained as indifferent to external pressure as he did throughout the World Cup. "If I had known Cyprus were going to be so difficult I would have put in eight defenders," was his initial argument for staying in charge.

When Spanish journalists asked him point-blank if he would be resigning the Basque replied: "No way." The Spanish football federation seems the only institution now backing Clemente and its president Angel Maria Villar said: "Cyprus played very well. We are not going to sack him."

Group Nine: Lithuania 0 Scotland 0

Forlorn Scots lose happy knack

Patrick Glenn in Vilnius hears Craig Brown lament his lack of a Hamish Zidane

THINGS have come to a pretty pass when a scoreless draw with Lithuania is enough to make Scotland the most successful of the British countries who contested this round of Euro 2000 qualifiers.

Cocks of the local walk they may have become, but the performance at the Zalgiris Stadium did not warrant a display of plumage. In truth Craig Brown's team, to use the peerless simile of a late colleague, showed as much imagination as a battery hen.

Brown himself looked unusually careworn at the end of a fraught 90 minutes. His native buoyancy and optimism seemed to have drained away, and even the post-match psycho-babble expected of a manager trying desperately to talk up a wretched display appeared to have been all but abandoned.

The manager's humour, which in the past has come to his aid in such circumstances, made only a brief appearance as he admitted his problems. "Until we find a Ronaldo or a Hamish Zidane," said Brown, "we will struggle to score goals. But where are these players? We can't pull rabbits out of a hat.

"We have to give respect to Lithuania for what they did in the match, but we are the seeded team in our group and we looked to do much better. Yes, we defended well enough and they didn't really threaten us, but we didn't threaten them either. We didn't get the ball to our forwards."

In fact, in the towering figure of Edgaras Jankauskas, the forward for whom FC Brugge paid Torpedo Moscow £1.2 million last season, the Lithuanians had manage enough to have won. The big man's first-half header low to the right of Jim Leighton from only six yards drew an exceptional save from the veteran goalkeeper.

On another occasion, during a period of sustained home pressure, Lithuania were denied only by Darren Jackson's goal-line clearance.

Perhaps most unnerving of all for Brown is the realisation that his team seem to have mislaid their happy knack of winning games. Peppered with players of only moderate talent throughout his five years in charge, Scotland teams still somehow managed to secure the victories needed to reach the finals of France 98 and the 1996 European Championship.

During the qualifying for France 98 they racked up five successive wins. But this bland draw means they have now completed nine outings without experiencing the satisfaction of a victory. Their last win was in the final World Cup qualifier, against Latvia at Celtic Park, in October 1997.

Even more disconcerting, there was never the remotest possibility that they would leave Vilnius with more than one point. Throughout the 90 minutes, Scotland contrived not a single scoring attempt.

The introduction of three debutants from the substitutes' bench was Brown's one source of encouragement.

The Blackburn full-back Callum Davidson, who is 22, the Rangers midfielder Barry Ferguson, 20, and the Hearts winger Neil McCann, 24, were so lively — relatively speaking — that the manager confirmed immediately they would "certainly be in the squad for the next two matches, at home to Estonia and the Faroes".

The match against Estonia on October 10 will be played at Tynecastle in Edinburgh, a venue that will offer a more reliable pitch than Saturday's decrepit stadium containing only around 4,500 spectators.

Dugarry spares blushes of toothless French attack

FRANCE could manage only a 1-1 draw in their opening Group Four qualifier on Saturday in Reykjavik, leaving the French yet to win a match as world champions.

"I cannot blame the players," said the new national coach Roger Lemerre said. "We had several opportunities but we failed to convert them into goals."

Christophe Dugarry spared their blushes by latching on to Zinedine Zidane's pinpoint cross to equalise only three minutes after Rikhardur Dadason penalised a 33rd minute blunder by the French goalkeeper Fabien Barthez.

France's next opponents, Russia, also failed to live up to expectations when they were beaten 3-2 by the Ukraine in Kiev. "Players cannot help but be worried and distracted by what's going on in the country," said Russia's new Ukrainian-born coach Anatoly Byshovets.

Merson in line for Spurs move

THE unsettled Middlesbrough midfielder Paul Merson may be in line for a quick return to London, possibly to link up with his former manager George Graham at Tottenham.

Aston Villa are expected to make a £6 million bid for the England midfielder, who yesterday confirmed his desire to leave the Teesside club.

However, a close member of Merson's family is reported in a North-east newspaper to have said: "If you want to know about Paul's future, talk to David Pleat at Tottenham. He is the one Paul has been talking to."

Merson yesterday denied that Paul Gascoigne was the cause of his unhappiness but admitted he feared that some of his team-mates' liking for drinking and gambling would cause him problems as a recovering alcoholic.

"I will go and see Bryan Robson tomorrow and tell him I may have to quit Middlesbrough for the good of my health," Merson told the News of the World. "A lot of the players here like to have a drink and a bet. The situation is too much for me — the danger signs are there."

The Middlesbrough manager, Robson, said yesterday he would not comment until he had discussed the situation face-to-face with Merson. "I will not sit down with him until after training so there will be no statement tomorrow. I will answer questions at the usual pre-match press conference on Tuesday."

Newcastle United have denied reports that the Italian Serie A club Parma have made a 40 billion lire (£14 million) bid to reunite Alan Shearer with his former team-mate Faustino Asprilla.

The Italian newspaper Gazzetta dello Sport reported that Parma made an approach for Shearer in June, but baulked at Newcastle's £21.1 million asking price and tried to sign Fiorentina's Argentinian forward Gabriel Batistuta instead.

When Batistuta chose last month to stay at Fiorentina, Parma are said to have reopened negotiations with Newcastle after they apparently lowered their asking price.

FA Cup: From Ramsbottom to Wembley

Preliminary round: Ramsbottom United 0 Maine Road 0

Drawing a fair reflection in Lowry land

Jeremy Alexander at the Riverside sees debutants earn a replay amid a PR fanfare

THE ribbons were already on the cup at the Riverside. So were the cameras, with the gateway to the pitch as a backgound. On a sultry afternoon the players took the field in scarves emblazoned with AXA and discarded them out of shot. Understandably Ramsbottom looked sheepish.

They had never played in the Cup before. It was their day, hijacked. The old trophy, last held aloft by Spurs in 1991, is being used for new business — a milk cup of sorts. In the big time clubs dance to the tune of sponsors in league with television. After this draw the big time moves to Charlton cum Hardy tomorrow, Maine Road's ground. Manchester City, at home to Bournemouth in the league, may feel the effects.

The score was a fair reflection and the sides' third draw running. Determined defending, confident goalkeeping and a well-grassed, undulating pitch ask a lot of the most skilful attackers; and there were some neat ones on show. Manchester United would not score 26 here, the competition record Preston put past Hyde in 1887.

There were some near things, though. The Maine Road goalkeeper John Morrey, a printer, denied Russell Brierley in each half, tipping an early shot over and a late header round. Between times Billy McCartney headed against a post.

At the other end Stuart Heeps was well protected as Carl Trimble held the Ramsbottom line. Heeps is a recent signing from Caernarvon Town, which took Ramsbottom into new territory. They had to get international clearance.

Richard Ferguson's leggy runs and Robert Stevenson's overlaps posed the most consistent threat. A couple of deflections flew close and Stevenson's rocket, inspired perhaps by the steam engines passing at one end, was well blocked.

When the Green Arrow whistles, the referee plays second fiddle. Steve Eaton, who once played in an FA Trophy final for Telford, took six names and a fair bit of stick. With a crowd of 260, everyone can have his say and be heard. "C'mon ref, it's not the effing final," rang from the Maine Road dug-out after one decision, as if the laws are different in the preliminary round.

Passion is fierce and the dug-outs are on opposite sides of the pitch but the warm perspective of friendship and laughter are never far behind. At half-time there was a kids' kick-about in one goal. Ramsbottom did not have numbered shirts beyond 15, so forfeited some of their entitlement of five subs. Maine Road agreed to do the same.

From the heights of Holcombe Hill the ground looks like Lowry land. The Peel tower up there was wrongly ascribed on Saturday. It commemorates not huntsman John but Robert Peel and his repealing of the Corn Laws — a case of mixed Peel and apologies.

Ramsbottom, resonant of Stanley Holloway, make no apologies for their crest: a ram's head for reasons of taste. They were rightly pleased with their debut. "It's great for the players, who can say in later life, 'I played in the FA Cup'," said John Maher, the secretary.

By then cameras and cup were in the changing-room — AXA after money's worth — but not Harry Williams, the Rams' chairman and founder. He was selling pies.

Ramsbottom United (5-3-2): Heeps; Brennan, W Brierley, Trimble, McCartney, Goodall, Rhodes, Hardman, Langhorn (Teller, 87min); Thomson, R Brierley.

Maine Road (4-4-2): Morrey; Stevenson, Franks (Brown, 32), Jenkinson, Totterdell; Wedgeworth, Woods, Whittingham (Lapcock, 88), Ferguson, Olulu, Smith (McVeity, 70).

Referee: S P Eaton.

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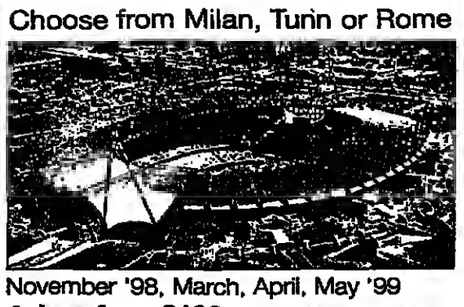

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Football

First Division

Birmingham 1 Bury 0

Francis is not short of a striker

Peter White

THE Birmingham manager Trevor Francis is ready to add weight to the theory that size is not important — especially when it refers to his strike force at St Andrew's.

If Dele Adebola, all 6ft 3in of him, fails to recover from the calf injury he sustained scoring Saturday's winner against Bury, then Francis will have no hesitation in calling on the teenager Andrew Johnson, barely 5ft 6in, to lead the attack at home against Stockport tomorrow night.

Johnson, the second-half substitute for Adebola against Bury, was once rejected as a schoolboy by Luton for being too small. But after being given a trial by Birmingham, he has now become, at 17 years and six months, *the third* youngest player in the club's history to appear at senior level, behind Francis himself and Neil Sproston. Francis is in no doubt about the talents of the young striker.

He said: "I am sure Andrew has a very bright future. He has done well in two appearances as substitute. He is very quick and *has the ability to run past* defenders."

Johnson said: "The fact that Luton told me I was too small acted as a spur. Since then I have made it my job to prove them wrong."

The victory over Bury elevated Birmingham to third in the First Division, equal on points with Sunderland and Wolverhampton, the only two clubs above them. Indeed, one more goal would have lifted them above Wolves, but for all their efforts they were frustrated by the agility and experience of Bruce Grobbelaar.

The former Liverpool keeper, 41 next month, made a one-off appearance for the visitors and showed he could still perform a useful day's work for any number of clubs in the lower divisions. But for a wretched error by Bury's skipper Chris Lucketti, who let in Adebola for the 20th-minute winner, Grobbelaar would have kept a clean sheet.

Having begun the season in the Rymans League with Chesham, Grobbelaar stepped in as cover for the first-choice Dean Kiely, away on international duty with the Republic of Ireland.

Grobbelaar said later: "I would love to still be playing regularly in the league and I am baffled why no one has come in for me."

● Steve Bruce, the Sheffield United manager, blamed international call-ups for his side's 1-0 defeat, from a goalscored by Wayne Allison, at Huddersfield. Bruce, without Wales's Dean Saunders and the Greek Vass Borbokis, complained about having to play a tough derby game without two of his best players. "It is simply crazy," he said.

Bruce, who also missed the game with a hamstring injury, has further worries with the loss of David Holdsworth with damaged medial knee ligaments.

Stockport's striker Brett Angell scored two more goals to see off Grimsby, adding to the ex-Sunderland player's two against Wolves in midweek.

FA Carling Premiership

	Home P	W	D	L	F	A	Away W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Liverpool	3	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	6	2	4	7
Aston Villa	3	1	0	0	3	1	1	1	0	1	0	3	7
Nottm Forest	3	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	3	3	1	6
Charlton	3	1	0	0	5	0	0	2	0	0	0	5	5
Wimbledon	3	1	1	0	4	2	0	1	0	0	0	2	5
Arsenal	3	1	1	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	5
Leeds	3	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	1	1	5
West Ham	3	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	5
Leicester	3	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	1	2	3	1	4
Coventry	3	1	1	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	4
Blackburn	3	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	4
Sheff Wed	3	0	0	2	0	2	1	0	0	3	0	1	3
Derby	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	3
Tottenham	3	0	0	1	0	3	1	0	1	2	3	-4	3
Man Utd	2	0	1	0	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
Middlesbrough	3	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	3	-2	2
Newcastle	3	0	1	1	1	4	0	1	0	1	1	-3	2
Chelsea	2	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	1
Everton	3	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	-3	1
Southampton	3	0	0	2	2	4	0	0	1	0	5	-7	0

International matches

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFYING

GROUP ONE

Belarus (0)0 **Denmark** (0)0
Att: 35,000

Wales (0)0 **Italy** (1)2
Fuser 19
Vieri 77

Wales (3-5-2): Jones; Symons, Williams, Coleman, Ward, Hughes (Savage 81), Johnson, Speed, Barnard; Blake (Saunders 69), Giggs. *Subs (not used): Bellamy, Trollope, Mardon.* Llewellyn, Ward. Booked: Blake. Italy (1-4-4-2): Peruzzi; Panucci, Cannavaro, Iviano, Paganin; Fuser, D Baggio, Albertini (Di Biagio 67), Di Francesco, Del Piero (R Baggio 75), Vieri. Subs (not used): Buffon, Negro, Serena, Inzaghi, Chiesa. Goals: Fuser (20), Vieri (77).
Att: 23,190. Ref: T Hauge (Norway)

GROUP TWO

Georgia (0)1 **Albania** (0)0
Arveladze 65
Att: 35,000

Greece (0)2 **Slovenia** (1)2
Machlas 55 (pen)
Frantzeskos 58
Zahovic 19, 60
40,000

GROUP THREE

Finland (2)3 **Moldova** (2)2
Kolkka 6
Jokiranta 44
Mioli Pamblenkin 63
Ciresa 30, 11
Att: 18,718

Turkey (1)3 **N Ireland** (0)0
Okray 18, 58
Tayfun 49 (pen)
Turkey (3-4-3): Rustu; Alpay, Mert, Suffet, Okan (Arif 87), Tayfun, Tugay, capt (Ogiz 75), Abdullah; Hakan, Oktay, Sergen.
Northern Ireland (2-2-4-1-1): Fettis; A Hughes, Horlock, Hill, Morrow; Gillespie (Whitley, 79), Lennon, McIlroyne, Rowland (OPR) (Quinn 45); *M Hughes, Dowie.*
Att: 28,500. Ref: Ryszard Wojcik (Poland).

GROUP FOUR

Armenia (1)3 **Andorra** (0)1
Avalyan 40
Yesayan 71 90
Lucendo 66
Att: 8,000

Iceland (1)1 **France** (1)1
Dadason 30
Att: 10 500

Ukraine (2)3 **Russia** (0)2
Popov 14
Skachenko 24
Rebrov 74 pen
Ovchinnikov 67
Onopko 87
Att: 82,000

GROUP FIVE

Bulgaria (0)0 **Poland** (2)3
Att: 20,000
Czerniewski 19, 45
Iwan 47

Sweden (2)2 **England** (1)1
Andersson 30
Mjallby 32
Shearer 2

Sweden (4-4-2) Hedman; Nilsson, P Andersson, Bjorklund, Kamark (Lucic 83), A. Andersson (D Andersson 90), Schwarz, Mjallby, Ljungberg; Larsson Petterson Subs (not used) Kihlstedt, Sundgren, Erlingmark, Svensson, Zetterberg.
England (3-5-2) Seaman; Campbell (Merson 75), Adams Southgate, Le Saux, Scholes (Sheringham 87), Ince, Redknapp, Anderton (Lee 43); Shearer, Owen Subs (not used): Keown, Martyn, Hinchcliffe, Wright.
Att: 35,394. Ref: P Collina (Italy)

GROUP SIX

Austria (1)1 **Israel** (0)1
Reinmayr 7
Nimny 68 (pen)
Att: 20,000

Cyprus (2)3 **Spain** (0)2
Engomitis 44
Gogic 46
Spolajric 77
Raul 72
Morientes 84
Att: 20,000

GROUP SEVEN

Slovakia (3)3 **Azerbaijan** (0)0
Fabus 17
Dubovsky 26 (pen)
Moravcik 40
Att: 3,243

GROUP EIGHT

Rep Ireland (2)2 **Croatia** (0)0
Irwin (pen) 4
Roy Keane 15
Republic of Ireland (4-4-2): Given; Irwin, Cunningham, Babb, Staunton; McAteer, Roy Keane, Kinsella, Duff (Kenna, 46); O'Neill (Cascarino, 10), Robbie Keane (Carsley, 62)
Croatia (3-5-2): Ladic; Soldo (Tokic, 78), Simas, Stimac; Tudor (Krpan, 63), Jurcic, Asanovic, Boban, Jarni; Maric (Pamic, 46) Stanic.
Att: 34,000 Ref: Mr V Pereira (Paraguay).

GROUP NINE

Bos-Herz (0)0 **Estonia** (1)1
Barbarez 75
Hiko 28og
Att: 21,000

Lithuania (0)0 **Scotland** (0)0
Lithuania (4-4-2): Stauce; Skerla, Semberas, R. Zutautas, Baltusnikas, Zvirgzdauskas, Mikulenas (Slekys 90) Sugzda (Baltrus 62) Proskatas; Skurbailius, Jankauskas Subs (not used) V Zutautas, Slumbrys, Gleveckas, Barzanauskas, D Zutautas.
Scotland (3-4-1-2) Leighton; Hendry, Elliott, Boyd, Calderwood, Davidson, Fitt Lambert, Collins, Duff; Jackson (Ferguson, 56); Gallacher, McCoist, McCann (82) Subs (not used) Sullivan, Weir, Falconer, Whyte.
Att: 4 500 Ref: C Zuta (Romania)

Faroe Is (0)0 **Czech Rep** (0)1
Smisor 84

EUROPEAN U-21 CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFYING

GROUP FOUR

Iceland (0)0 **France** (2)2

GROUP FIVE

Bulgaria (2)2 **Poland** (1)2

● The Czech Republic defender Pavel Nedved was sent off yesterday as they won in their Group Nine away fixture 1–0 with a controversial late goal against the Faroe Islands in Toftir.

The Finnish referee Juha Hirvisaari considered calling off the match at half-time because of the thick mist enveloping the pitch and in the 84th minute showed a protesting Nedved a second yellow card and ordered him off.

Within a minute the Lens striker Vladimir Smicer put the Czechs ahead, scoring with a cross-shot from the right. The Faroese side had intentionally played the ball into touch with a player lying injured. They expected to recover the ball from the throw but instead the Czechs set up the move which produced the winning goal.

Non-league

CONFERENCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rushden & D	7	7	0	0	21	2	21
Stevenage	7	4	3	0	6	4	15
Cheltenham	7	4	2	1	16	8	14
Kingstonian	7	4	2	1	12	10	14
Kettering	7	3	3	1	11	5	12
Southport	7	3	3	1	10	8	12
Hednesford	7	3	1	3	6	7	12
Dover	7	6	2	2	8	6	11
Kidderminster	7	3	1	3	13	10	10
Yeovil	7	3	1	3	10	10	10
Morecambe	7	6	1	3	11	20	10
Leek Town	7	3	0	4	14	7	9
Welling	7	1	5	1	7	8	8
Hereford	7	2	2	3	8	10	8
Northwich	7	2	2	3	8	6	8
Hayes	7	2	2	3	8	13	8
Farnborough	7	1	3	3	6	12	6
Doncaster	7	1	2	4	5	8	5
Forest Green	7	1	2	4	8	10	5
Barrow	7	1	2	4	9	17	5
Telford	7	0	4	3	4	10	4
Woking	7	0	1	6	6	17	1

Cheltenham (2)4 **Morecambe** (1)1
Grayson 2, 65
Howells 32, 69
Norman 9
Att: 1,959

Doncaster (0)0 **Forest Green** (0)1
Att: 3,402
Hunt 61

Farnboro (1)2 **Leek** (0)1
West 43
Bailey 88
McAuley 72
Att: 678

Hereford (0)0 **Hayes** (0)1
Att: 2,053
Catlin 88

Kettering (0)1 **Kidderstr** (0)1
Vowden 89
Att: 1,684
Willetts 54 (pen)

Northwich (1)2 **Kingstnian** (0)3
Walters 38 (pen)
Filson 71
Att: 908
Luckett 58 (pen)
Mustapha 64
Corbett 87

Stevenage (0)0 **Southport** (0)0
Att: 2,433

Telford (1)1 **Dover** (1)1
Norbury 35
Att: 588
Adams 6

Welling (0)1 **Hednesfd** (0)1
Hynes 61
Att: 507
Davis 86

Woking (2)2 **Barrow** (0)2
Goddard 41
West 45
Att: 1,917
Dabzey 81 (og)
Foster 72
Mutch 73

Yeovil (0)0 **Rushden** (1)1
Att: 2,878
Foster 16

UNIBOND PREMIER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Worksop	5	4	1	0	7	2	13
Hyde Utd	5	3	2	0	8	1	11
Whitby Town	5	3	2	0	11	8	11
Winsford Utd	5	3	1	1	7	4	10
Blyth Spartans	5	3	1	1	8	3	10
Leigh RMI	5	3	0	2	11	6	9
Runcorn	5	2	3	0	8	5	9
Bailey	5	2	2	1	9	7	8
Gateshead	5	2	2	1	5	5	8
Stalybridge	5	2	0	1	6	7	6
Bamber Bridge	5	2	1	2	4	7	7
Chorley	5	1	3	1	6	5	6
Prickley	5	1	3	1	3	3	6
Marine	5	1	2	2	7	7	5
Guiseley	5	1	1	3	6	8	4
B Auckland	5	1	1	3	8	9	4
Altrincham	5	0	4	1	4	5	4
Colwyn Bay	5	1	1	3	5	9	4
Lancaster	5	0	3	2	8	9	3
Gainsborough	5	0	2	3	2	7	2
A Stanley	5	0	2	3	3	10	2
Spennymoor	5	0	1	4	6	16	1

RYMAN PREMIER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bromley	5	4	1	0	15	3	13
Aldershot Tn	5	3	2	0	11	3	11
Aylesbury	5	3	2	0	8	3	11
Basingstoke	5	3	1	1	13	6	10
Billericay Tn	5	3	1	1	9	4	10
Slough	5	3	1	1	8	6	10
St Albans	5	2	3	0	7	4	9
Sutton Utd	5	2	2	1	8	6	8
W & Hersham	5	2	2	1	9	7	8
Purfleet	5	2	1	2	7	6	7
Dag & Red	5	2	1	2	7	8	7
Dulwich	5	1	2	2	5	6	5
Clapham	5	1	2	2	3	8	5
Hampton	5	1	2	2	7	12	5
Boreham Wood	5	0	4	1	4	7	4
Gravesend	5	1	1	3	3	6	4
Carshalton	5	1	1	3	6	10	4
E Grinstead	5	0	4	1	6	14	4
Enfield	5	1	0	4	7	6	3
Hendon	5	0	2	3	4	10	2
Harrow Borough	5	0	2	3	5	13	2
Heybridge	5	0	2	3	5	19	2

JEWSON FOOTBALL LEAGUE: Premier: Diss Tn 1 Sudbury W 0; Ipswich W 3 Ely C 1. *Lowestoft Tn 1 Wroxham 1; Maldon Tn 1* Histon 1; Newmarket Tn 1 Gt Yarmouth 7 n 1. Werboys 2 Harwich 5 Parkeston 1; Watton Utd 2 Woodbridge Tn 1.
HALIFAX & DISTRICT Premier Division: Hebden Royd 3 Ryburn Utd 3; Hillingworth 3 Ss C 1 Salem 1; Mixenden Utd 0 Stump Cross 2; St Columbas 4 St Andrews 4.

DR MARTENS PREMIER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nuneaton	3	3	0	0	13	4	15
Grantham	5	4	1	0	10	2	13
Hastings	5	4	0	1	13	8	12
Burton Albion	5	3	1	1	8	3	10
Worcester City	5	3	0	2	11	5	9
Gloucester City	5	3	0	2	5	4	9
Bath City	5	2	1	2	7	5	7
Weymouth	5	2	1	2	7	6	7
Atherstone	5	2	1	2	8	8	7
Halesowen	5	2	1	2	7	0	7
Salisbury	5	2	1	2	5	6	7
Cambridge City	5	2	1	2	5	8	7
Boston Utd	5	1	3	1	7	6	6
Merthyr	5	2	0	3	9	11	6
Bromsgrove	5	1	2	2	6	10	5
Tamworth	5	1	1	3	7	8	4
Kings Lynn	5	1	1	3	5	9	4
Rothwell Town	5	0	3	2	3	7	3
Stafford Tn	5	0	3	2	6	11	3
Crawley Town	5	0	2	3	4	10	2
Dorchester	5	0	1	4	3	11	1

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier: B Auckland 2 Runcorn 3; B Spartans 0 Altrincham 0; Chorley 2 Whitby Tn 2; Colwyn B 0 Frickley 2; Emley 3 A Stanley 1; Gateshead 2 Bamber Br 0; Guiseley 2 Winsford Utd 3; Hyde Utd 3 Spennymoor 0; Lancaster 1 Stalybridge 1, Leigh RMI 3 Gainsboro 0; Marine 0 Worksop 2. *First:* Alfreton Tn S C 2 Congleton Tn 1. Droylsden 3 Radcliffe Bor 2; Farsley Celtic 0 Lincoln Utd 0; Gt Harwood Tn 0 Belper Tn 1; Hucknall Tn 0 Graina 1. *Stourbridge 0 Netherfield Kendal 3;* Whitley B 0 Eastwood Tn 1.
RYMAN LEAGUE: Premier: Aylesbury 0 St Albans 0; Basingstoke 1 Hendon 1; B Borough 0 Aldershot Tn 8; Bromley 2 Enfield 1; Chesham 0 Dulwich 0; Dag & Red 1 Billericay Tn 2; Gravesend 2 Harrow Bor 0; Hampton 3 Boreham Wood 3; Purfleet 4 Carshalton 2; Sutton Utd 1 Heybridge 1; Walton & Hersham 2 Slough 0. *First:* Barton Rvrs 0 Warthing 0; Berkhamsted Tn 3 Romford 3; Leatherhead 1 Chertsey Tn 2; Uxbridge 2 Staines Tn 2; Whyteleafe 2 Braintree Tn 3; Yeading 0 Bognor Regis Tn 2. **Seconds:** Blacknell Tn 0 Windsor & Eton 1, Chalfont St Peter 2 Edgware Tn 4; Harlow Tn 7 Tooting & Mitcham 0; Hungerford Tn 1 Leighton Tn 1; Met Police 2 Hertford Tn 0.
DR MARTENS LEAGUE Premier: Atherstone 6 Dorchester 1; Boston Utd 2 Bromsgrove 2; Burton Alb 4 Cambridge C 1; Crawley Tn 0 Nuneaton 3; Grantham 5 Merthyr 6; Gresley 1 Hastings 4 Salisbury 1; Hastings 5 Ilkeston Tn 0; Kings Lynn 2 Gloucester C 0; Tamworth 1 Bath C 1; Weymouth 1 Halesowen 2; Worcester C 1 Rothwell Tn 0. **Southern** Brackley Tn 1 Andover 0; Havant & Waterlooville 3 Raunds Tn 1; Sittingbourne 1 Newport (IoW) 0. **Midlands** Bedworth Utd 0 Clevedon Tn 1; Bloxwich Tn 1 Brixton Tn 6; Cinderford Tn 1 Stamford AFC 1; Solihull Bor 2 Moor Grn 3; Stourbridge 1 Evesham Utd 0.
FA CUP: Preliminary round: Ashton Utd 5 Willington 2; Thackley 2 Hebburn 1; Atherton Coll 1 Armthorpe Well 2; Stocksbridge 1 Liversedge 4; Rossendale Utd 0 Brigg 3; Ashington 2 Roden CW 1; Sheffield 2 Atherton LR 4, Trafford 4 Peterlee Newtown 1; Ramsbottom Utd 0 Maine Rd 0; Harrogate 1 Burscough 2; Tadcaster Alb 1 Ossett 0; Guisborough 1 Rossington Main 3; Shotton Comrades 1 Jarrow Roofing Boldon CA 2; Flixton 3 Northallerton 0; Marske Utd 1 Billingham Syn 1; Oldham 0 Warrington 2, Bradford Pk Ave 4 Easington Colliery 1; Yorkshire Am 1 Witton Albion 3; Sandwell Bor 0 Blakenall 3; Boston 2 Blackstone 0; Shepshed Dyn 1 Barwell 1; Sutton Coldfield 1 VS Rugby 0; Hinckley Utd 2 Rushall Olympic 0, Lye 0 Racing CW 1, Stafford Rngrs 3 Boldmere St Michaels 0; Matlock 4 Redditch Utd 1; Halesowen H 2 Stourport B 1. Bridgnorth B Borrowash Vic 3; Corby 0 Leek CSOB 4; Cheltenham C 6 Fakenham 0; Canvey Is 6 Stansted 1; Eynesbury Rvrs 3 Southall 3; Tring 0 Waltham A 2; Bowers Utd 3 Southwick BC 3; Felixstowe Port 6 1 Ford Spts Daventry 2; Leyton Pen 2 Wembley 1, Stotfold 2 Budbury 2; Harpenden 3 Burnham 2; Potton Utd 0 Baldock 3; Hornchurch 1 London Col 1; Marlow 2 H Hempstead 1; Bury 1 Tilbury 1, Kingsbury 4 Grays Ath 4; Stowmarket 6 Dorchester 1; Potters B 2 Wealdstone 2; Witney 3 Northwood 0; Arlesey 0 Barking 2; Welwyn GC 6 E Thurrock Utd 1; Ford Utd 2 Wellingboro 0; Burnham Ram 2 Soham Rngrs 1; Halstead 3 Flackwell Hth 0; Wisbech 2 Bedford 3; Desborough 1 Cheshunt 0; Farnham 1 Hallsham 1; Molesey 1 Oxford C 4; Deal 4 Hillingdon Bor 1; Egham 2 Fisher Ath 2; Cowes Spts 1 Dorking 2; Godalming 6 Guildford 1 Banstead Ath 2; Folkestone Inv 1 Tonbridge A 0 (abandoned 54min); Ashford 1 Margate 1; Littlehampton 1 Fleet 4; Fareham 0 Croydon 2; Fortfield 1 Eastleigh 1; Abingdon 0 Maidenhead Utd 3; Ashford (Middx) 1 Erith & Belvedere 3; Bashley 4 Ramsgate 2; Chatham 1 Horsham 1; Eastbourne 1 Herne Bay 0; Wokingham 0 Camberley 2; Burgess Hill 1 Thame Utd 0; Tonbridge 0 Melksham 1; Cirencester 3 Chippenham 2; Falmouth 1 Devizes 0; Newport AFC 0 Weston-s-Mare 0; Elmore 1 Yate 0; Paulton Rvrs 2 Bemerton Hth Harlequins 1; Minehead 4 Frome 0; Backwell Utd 2 Calne 1; Bideford 1 Bampton 2; Bridgwater 6 Welton Rvrs 0.

Nationwide League

FIRST DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sunderland	5	4	1	0	13	2	13
Wolverhampton	5	4	1	0	9	2	13
Birmingham	6	4	1	1	5	3	13
Bury	6	3	2	1	9	5	11
West Brom	5	3	1	1	12	8	10
Huddersfield	5	3	1	1	8	7	10
Norwich	4	3	0	1	6	5	9
Stockport	6	2	3	1	8	7	9
Watford	5	3	0	2	6	6	9
Grimsby	6	2	2	2	6	5	8
Sheff Utd	6	2	1	3	8	11	7
Bolton	4	1	3	0	8	6	6
Portsmouth	6	1	3	2	6	9	6
Crewe	5	2	0	3	7	8	6
Barnsley	5	1	3	1	5	6	6
Ipswich	5	1	3	1	3	2	6
Crystal Palace	4	1	2	1	6	0	5
Swindon	6	1	2	3	6	10	5
Oxford Utd	6	1	2	3	5	7	5
Bradford	5	1	1	3	6	8	4
Bristol City	6	0	3	3	6	13	3
QPR	5	0	2	3	3	9	2
Tranmere	4	0	2	2	2	6	2
Port Vale	5	0	1	4	2	11	1

Birmingham (1)1 **Bury** (0)0
Adebola 20
Birmingham Bennett, Rowett, Grainger, Marsden (Holland 78), Ablett, M Johnson, Robinson, O'Connor Adebola (A Johnson 45). Hughes (Purse 53), Forster
Bury Grobbelaar Woodward, Barnek, Caws, Lucketti Redmond Swailes Foster (Matthews 38, O Jaile (Ellis 82), Johnrose Preece, Matthews (Patterson 83)
Att: 15,935 Ref: F Stretton (Nottingham).

Huddersfld (0)1 **Sheff Utd** (0)0
Allison 86
Huddersfield Vaesen Jenkins, Edwards, Johnson, Morrison (Gray 46), Collins Richardson (Dalton 67), Horne, Stewart, Allison, Thornley Sub (not used) Barnes.
Sheffield Utd Tracey, Wilder, Cross, Ford, Sandford Holdsworth (Marker 46), Devlin, Woodhouse (Marcelo 78), Taylor, Stuart, Hunt. Sub (not used) Dallas
Att: 12,192 Ref: K Lynch (Kirk Hammerton).

Oxford Utd (2)3 **Portsmouth** (0)0
Marsh 28
Windass 34 (pen), 74
Oxford Utd Whitehead Robinson, Marsh, Gray (Hall 77), Whelan, Gibbens (Thomson 45), Powell, Windass, Cook, Murphy Beauchamp. Subs (not used) Banger.
Portsmouth Flahavan, Pethick, Simpson, McLoughlin Watkiss, Awford, Thogersen, Hiller (Kyzeridis 66), Akinbiyi, Durnin (Peron 46), Igoe (Phillips 45)
Att: 6 626. Ref: P Taylor (Cheshunt)

Q.P.R. P **Barnsley** P

Stockport (0)2 **Grimsby** (0)0
Angell 78, 90
Stockport Nash, Connolly, Woodthorpe, Cook, Flynn, McIntosh, Gannon (Wilbraham 88), Byrne Angell, Moore, Cooper (Dinsing 75). *Sub (not used): Phillips.*
Grimsby Town Davison, McDermott, Gallimore (Nogan 81) Hansyuss (Lever 22), R. Smith, Burnett, Coldicott (Black 81), D Smith, Ashcroft, Lester, Graves.
Att: 8,199. Ref: T Jones (Barrow-in-Furness).

Swindon (3)3 **Bristol City** (0)2
Walters 2 (pen)
Noah 5
Omoyi 6
Allinbiyi 62
Bull 75 (pen)
Swindon Tails Kerslake, Hall, Leigh Hulbert 78 Reeves, Borrows (Davis 21), Walters, Nolan, Oresca, Bullock Gooden. Sub (not used) Cowe.
Bristol C Welch, Locke, Bell, Doherty, Watts, Dyche, Murray, Edwards (Cramb 45), Akinbiyi, Thorpe (Hewlett 46), Tinnion. Sub (not used) Brennan.
Att: 8,537 Ref: P Rejer (Leamington Spa).

Watford P **Norwich** P
Leading goalscorers: 6 Bellamy (Norwich), Hughes (West Brom), Adebola (Birmingham); Alpisti (Portsmouth); Stake (Bolton), 5 Phillips (Sunderland); Stewart (Huddersfield), Dichio (Sunderland); Akinbiyi (Bristol C); Bull (Wolverhampton); Saunders (Sheff Utd), 4 Angell (Stockport); Andersen (Bristol C); Keane (Wolverhampton); McLoughlin (Portsmouth).

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Leading goalscorers: 4 Owen (Liverpool), 3 Mendonca (Charlton) 2 Cottee (Leicester); Ekoku (Wimbledon); Joachim (Aston Villa); Stone (Nottm Forest); Flyvet (Chelsea).
POOLS FORECAST: Half-time Score draws (total 3): 19, 37, 47. **No-score draws** (21): 2, 3, 6, 11, 13, 14, 18, 26, 27, 28, 30, 33, 34, 35, 38, 39, 41, 43, 44, 46, 48. **Full-time Score draws** (6): 7, 25, 30, 44, 47, 48. **No-score draws** (3): 27, 39, 46.

SECOND DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Stoke	6	6	0	0	14	4	18
Luton	6	4	1	1	8	5	13
Preston	6	3	2	1	15	10	11
Bournemouth	6	3	2	1	8	4	11
Fulham	5	3	2	0	6	1	11
Wrexham	6	3	1	2	8	9	10
Walsall	5	3	1	1	7	4	10
Bristol Rovers	6	2	3	1	11	8	9
Colchester	6	3	0	3	7	7	9
Chesterfield	6	3	0	3	3	5	9
Blackpool	6	2	2	2	8	10	8
Man City	5	2	2	1	7	5	8
Notts County	6	2	2	2	7	6	8
Oldham	6	2	1	3	7	10	7
York	5	2	1	2	6	6	7
Millwall	5	2	1	2	4	6	7
Gillingham	6	1	3	2	7	5	6
Wigan	6	2	0	4	7	8	6
Burnley	6	2	0	4	5	8	6
Lincoln City	6	1	2	3	5	9	5
Reading	4	1	0	3	4	8	3
Northampton	6	0	3	3	3	7	3
Macclesfield	6	0	2	4	1	8	2
Wycombe	5	0	1	4	3	9	1

Blackpool (0)2 **Northmptn** (1)1
Clarkson 71
Thompson 82
Clarkson, Carroll
Blackpool Banks, Bryan, Shuttleworth, Barkley, Carlisle, Aldridge (Newland 70), Thompson, Clarkson, Conroy (Ormerod 45), Bushell (Robinson 90), Mellon, Northampton Town Woodman, Gibb, Frain (Winter 45), Sampson, Werminton, Bishop (Higgs 84), Poor, Parrish, Freestone, Corazzin, Hunter (Hunt 72)
Att: 4,017 Ref: M Dean (Eastham).

Bristol R (2)2 **Preston** (0)2
Hayles 5
Tillson 34
Harris 49
Jackson 63
Bristol Rovers Collett, Leoni (Smith 78), Beard, Trees, Foster, Tillson, Holloway, Mehlar, Ipson (Roberts 54), Carlton, Hayles. Sub (not used): Pavice
Preston North End Maltman, Parkinson, Ludden, Kidd Jackson, Gregan, McKenna (Cartwright 79), Rankine, Nogan (Darby 89), Mackie, Eyres (Harris 46).
Att: 6,702. Ref: A Hall (Birmingham).

Chesterfld (1)1 **Gillingham** (0)0
Holland 63
Chesterfield Mercer, Howitt, Perkins, Wilkinson (Beaumont 79), Williams, Breckin, Lee, Holland, Reeves, Eldon, Howard. Subs (not used): Jules, White.
Gillingham Bartram, Southall, Dobson, Smith, Bryant, Rolling (Pinnock 59), Galloway (Edge 40), Hessenthaler, Asaba, Saunders, Williams. Sub (not used): Statham.
Att: 3,706. Ref: B Burns (Scarborough).

Fulham P **Wycombe** P

Lincoln (0)1 **Oldham** (2)3
Smith 69
Graham 26
Liljegohn 34
Allen 71

Lincoln City Vaughan, Perry, Whaley, Fleming, Brown, Austin,

Football

Third Division

Hull City 2 Brentford 3

Noades gets a buzz as Bees fly high

Jon Brodkin finds the owner-manager enjoying a real-life football fantasy

THE manager was delighted, the chairman exultant, even the owner managed a smile. Brentford were top of the leagne and Ron Noades was lapping np the attention. Alan Sogar could be tempted to dig out that old tracksuit this morning.

Life could scarcely ha sweeter for Noades. A Ferrari in the garage, a team in pole position and £20 million in the bank from the sale of Crystal Palace. Welcome to real-life fantasy football.

Except that Noades is parked firmly in reality. Years of ahuse at Palace, inclnding an annnymons death-threat, have seen to that. "Three defeats on tha trot and the fans will soon change their opinion," he said.

It has changed once already, for the start of the Three Ronnies show in June was hardly greeted with glee.

"Of course we were sceptical," said one supporter, "bnt there was also an overwhelming sense of relief. We would rather have had Satan than David Wehh." Better the devil yon don't know, then.

They need not have worried about Noades's managerial credentials. He was running his street side aged 11, has an FA coaching badge and insists Palace would have stayed up last season had he heen in charge for more than the last three matches.

On this evidence it is difficult to argue, and Noades certainly *sounds* a natural. "Every game's a hattle," he said. "It could have gone either way." Step forward Not Quite As Big Ron.

In fact Noades prefers not to step forward at all. He spent all hnt five minutes of the match in the directors' box with Ray Lewington, one of his fleet of coaches, wearing the expression of Kenny Dalglish on sedatives.

Yet this was a personal triumph. Brentford's first goal was scored by Lloyd Owusn, whom Noades signed from Slough, and his appearance on the touchline early in the second half led to Warren Aspinall making it 2-1.

Noades ducked the high fives, though he is involved in virtually averything else. He attends training almost every morning and was at Wrexham on Friday to watch Coventry's striker Simon Howarth play for Wales Uoder-21s.

"I'm in it for as long as I'm enjoying it," he said. "I've got an arrangement with Ray that I can ask him to take over any tima I like. I can stop when I want and I haven't got any pressure with regard to results and chairmen and boards of directors."

Hnli's player-manager Mark Hatelay may not know whether he is under pressure. His chairman David Lloyd, Britain's Davis Cup captain, is rarely at Boothferry Park and spent Saturday at Finshing Meadow. The fans wish he would stay there.

They are bitterly opposed to his scheme to mova in with the city's rugby league team, the Sharks, and hope he sells to an interested consortium.

"I've been let down with the promises I got when I came here," Hateley said. He was guaranteed £3 million — Lloyd says it was made without his approval — but has paid money only once, £25,000 for Matt Hocking.

Hocking it was who headed Hull into the lead and Neil Whitworth made it 2-2, before the goalkeeper Steve Wilson misfadged a cross to leave Andy Scott with an open net.

Noades, disappointed by the performance, need not look far for inspiration. His office overlooks Palace's training complex and Terry Venables has had one or two bright ideas in the past.

Sitting pretty . . . Ron Noades watches from the directors' box

Courting success . . . Tim Henman celebrates his third-round, four-set win over Michael Kohlmann in New York yesterday PHOTOGRAPH: GARY PRIOR

Henman's happy returns

Stephen Bierley at Flushing Meadow sees Britain's new No. 1 into the last 16

FOR ths second time in three years Tim Henman reached the last 16 at the US Open, although wbat began as a smooth third-round ride against the German qualifier Michael Kohlmann hit a customary mid-flight spell of severe turbulance, Henman eventually winning 6-3, 7-6, 1-6, 6-4 to his obvious relief.

Henman frsqusntly has trouble against unregarded players. Kohlmann, ranked No. 149, had already won five matches, three during qualifying, before yesterday morning's enconnter and had every right to feel a little jaded, which made Henman's third-set dip particnlarly unsatisfactory.

There were signs his concentration was wavering in the previous set, with double faults and sprayed forehands giving the German some considerable hope, although once Henman had closed out this second set there seemed no real reason for slarm.

In the end all was well and Henman was able to enjoy his 24th birthday, unlike Greg Rusedski, 25 yesterday, who had slumped to a miserable third-round defeat against Holland's Jan Siemerink the previous day, thereby losing his British No. 1 spot to Henman.

Rusedski, hesten in the final by Australia's Pat Rafter last year, is not by nature given to long spells of pessimism, but there was no hiding his disappointment as the clock neared midnight on Saturday.

His voice was husky and there was a dullness in his eyes which suggested that the five-setter against Siemerink, his third in succession, had taken him close to physical exhaustion.

More explicitly be knew he should have beaten the 28-year-old Dutchman who, in his eight years on the professional circuit, has only twice managed to progress to the last 16 of a Grand Slam.

Having established a two-sets-to-one lead, the odds appeared heavily in Rusedski's favour, despite the quality of his tennis being extremely patchy. Time and again, having delivered a backband return into the net, he went through the motions of replaying the shot, screwing up his brow with a mixture of concentration and annoyance.

But such mental exertions had no effect. Siemerink, whose temperament tends to split like slate under pressure, hit a dozen double faults, many at crucial times, but Rusedski was only able to take temporary advantage.

A foot fault in the fourth set, which led to Rusedski being broken, sent him into a huge rage born of frustration. It is his serve, principally, that has kept him in the top 10 for a year, and this most potent of weapons has been functioning only spasmodically since he arrived in New York.

There are obvious excuses. The left ankle injury sustained during the Stella Artois tournament at Queen's in early June meant Rusedski did not play another match, excluding his abortive first-round effort at Wimbledon, until mid-August. Indeed, because of his poor clay court season, he had not, prior to arriving in America for two pre-US Open tournaments, played more than two matches in a week since March at the Lipton Championships.

Had he defeated either South Africa's Wayne Ferreira or Bohdan Ulihrach of the Czech Republic in straight sets in the two previous rounds, Rusedski might have reached the fourth round, but his chances of further progress were strictly limited because of this lack of match play.

Rusedski's next match will be for Britain in the Davis Cup tie against India on September 25. He will not be playing at ths Samsung Open in Bournmouth next week, where last year hs received a hero's welcome after reaching the US Open final.

His success on the European indoor circuit last autumn, when he won in Basle, means he could slip even further down the rankings should his form cootinue to waver. "I know that if I had not missed two months this summer I would still be in the top 10," be said. "But you can't control injuries. Now the fight is on to get back by the end of the year."

Rusedski will still not concede that trying to play at Wimbledon with an injured ankle was a naive and costly mistake. "It didn't make any difference. I had everything scanned and it did not change anything."

It did, of course. But it is such stubbornness that will ensure Rusedski's slide is only a temporary one. As Siemerink remarked: "You do not get into the top 10 by mistake."

Sunshine at last as Seles reaches last eight

MONICA SELES, twice winner of the US Open in 1991 and 1992, became the first women to reach the quarter-finals yesterday with a 6-2, 4-6, 6-3 victory against here fellow American Kimberly Po, *writes Stephen Bierley.*

Seles has been working extremely hard on her fitness under her new coach Gavin Hopper but was far from har best against Po, notahly in the second set, hnt her nerve beld in a tight match.

Her next opponent will be the Swiss world No. 1 Martina Hingis who defeated France's Nathalie Dechy, ranked 64th, hy 6-4, 6-4 in an 80-minute match which contained 47 nnforced errors hy Dechy and 41 by Hingis.

Hingis has won five of seven career meetings with Seles, but the American has won their two most recent matches, in the semi-finals of the French Open and the Canadian Open this year.

The Wimhledon champion Jana Novotna, of the Czech Repuhlic, also moved through to the last eight, beating Romania's ninth seed Irina Spirlea 6-3, 6-3.

Novotna's victory in 63 minntes took advantage of 35 unforced errors hy last year's semi-finalist.

Athletics

Bullish Mark gets his fair share

Duncan Mackay sees the Grand Prix season end with Moscow jackpots

MARK RICHARDSON hit town with his coofidence as fragile as the Russian economy. But one victory has takeo him off the track equivalent of the local stock exchange and put him back oo Wall Street.

It is an appropriate analogy for a man who will invest the $50,000 [£30,000] he earned for winning the 400 metres nt the International Amateur Athletic Federation Grand Prix final at Luzniki Olympic Stadium on Saturday in stocks and shares.

Richardson's confidence was shot to pieces when he finished only third behind team-mate Iwan Thomas at the European Championships in Bndapest last month. But his win in 44.88sec over hoth Thomas and Jerome Young, the man selected to represent the United States in the World Cup in Johannesburg this week, left him feeling hullish again.

"I want to win the Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur next week because without a douht I underperformed in Bndapest," he said.

Haviog hriefly put himself in line to claim a share of the $1 million awarded to any athlete who remained undefeated throughout the Golden League series by beating the invincible Michael Johnson in the opening meet in Oslo in July, Richardson crumbled in Hungary.

"I still don't understand what went wrong," said the 25-year-old Windsor runner. "I'm just glad to show I hadn't lost it all in one race. I was scared wben I lined np here and it's a huge weight off my shoulders."

The solidarity between Britain's 400m runners was evident at the end of the race when Thomas rushed np to Richardson. "I was pleased for him because I knew how gutted he must have felt after Budapest," said Thomas.

The Sonthampton runner had his own disappointment to deal with here. Officials adjndged him to have finished third instead of second, despite giving him the same time of 44.96 as Young. It meant the Welshman won $20,000 instead of $30,000. "I honestly thought I had got it," he said. "But I promise yon I'll beat Young in Johannesburg and win $50,000 there."

Gutted was probably not a word strong coough to describe how Bryan Bronson must have felt. He was the only one of the four remaining Golden League contenders to miss out, losing in the 400m hurdles to Stephane Diagana of France. When all the figures were added up it had cost him $350,000.

The other three, Marioo Jones, Hicham El Gnerrouj and Haile Gehrselassie, all woo. The American Jones won $633,333.33 [£383,000], a record for a female athlete, for her easy victories in the 100m in 10.83sec and in the long jump with a leap of 7.13m, which also confirmed her as the overall womeo's Grand Prix champion.

The Moroccan El Guerrouj claimed the men's Grand Prix for his 1500m triumph in 3min 32.03sec, collecting $583,333.33.

Gebrselassie of Ethiopia won the 3000m in 7:50.00 and took home $383,333.33. When the Golden League jackpot was divided it left a cent over. "That beinngs to me because the other two got a lot more from the Grand Prix," said Gehrselassie.

Richardson . . . pocketed a £30,000 bonns for 400m win

Leyton Orient 2 Carlisle United 1

Hearn on a high as Knighton calls for league salary cap

Adam Sills

BARRY HEARN has veered between joy and despair at times in a career spanning the worlds of snooker, boxing and, since April 1995, the chairmanship of Orient.

But it was joy unconfined after an injury-time winner from David Morrison saw his team collect their first home points of the season.

"This is such a frustrating game. You have times in your darkest moments when you think it's going so bad and what am I doing here, do I need this? And then you have one game like this and you think there's no way I'd miss this," said Hearn.

"When people ask what is the attraction of football, the answer is that. You just can't put words to it. It's just one game in 46 but who knows, for us it may be the most important of the season.

"I've got to take my hat off to the crowd. I criticised them last week but I thought they were absolutely magnificent. In the second half they were on fire and the performance was all down to them. I've got to put my hands np and say 'Lovely'."

That was not the word on Hearn's llpa tha previous weekend when he gave as good as he got to an element in the crowd berating his side after seeing them concede their seventh goal in two home league games.

It has been an equally testing start to the season for the Carlisle chairman cum manager Michael Knighton, who was furious at tha penalty decision which Carl Griffiths converted to get Orient back into the game after Ian Stevens had given Carlisle a deserved half-time lead.

"I had a word with Michael and he said, well, the pressure's off you for a week and it's on me for another week," Hearn sympathised.

Fans expecting massive cash injections do not make either man's joh easier and both believe that the lower divisions are in desperate need of a ahake-up. But their difference of opinion as to how this could be achieved illustrates just how tricky any radical reform would be.

While Hearn would like to see a return to regional divisions, Knighton feels that it is a case of basic economics.

"All fans, and quite rightly, want to see their team win," he said. "They very rarely ask where the money comes from and you could argue that's not their problem. I say it's football's problem so it's everybody's problem.

"We need to have a wage structure in place which is obligatory for everyone in the Nationwide League. We need soma major intervention either from the Government or from the FA and the Football League."

Hearn's assessment of his position after three years in charge was "frustrating, exciting, disappointing and yet still optimistic". Football's that sort of game.

Boxing

Woodhall admits his win was lucky

John Rawling

THERE can be few professional sportsmen who consistently display the disarming honesty of Richie Woodhall. Aftsr narrowly hanging on to his World Boxing Council world super-middleweight title against the unsung Glenn Catley at Telford Ice Rink, he commented, "I was lucky, I thought he deserved to win it."

Catlay, 26, the British middleweight champion, had only been given his shot at the title with less than two weeks' notice as Woodhall's original opponent, Vincenzo Nardiello of Italy, pulled out with injury. But many at ringside agreed with Woodhall, believing Catley, a shavan-headed strongman from Bristol, had done enough to earn the verdict.

Woodhall, 30, a classical stylist, was making a first defence of the title he won in March at the same arena against the South African Thnlane "Sugarboy" Malinga. With a five-inch height advantage and reach to match, few had expected the champion to experience the problems be did.

But Catley, an electrician by trade, soon showed the desire to seize the chance of a lifetime. Plodding forward and swaying low to evade Woodhall's normally effective jab, he repeatedly found the target with punishing hooks. It may not have been pretty, but ths partisan pro-Woodhall crowd slowly realised the possibility of a hnge upset.

When the scorecards were announced, one judge scored it a draw with the others going for Woodhall by margins of two rounds and three rounds. The champion grimaced, knowing his good fortune, while Catley's manager Chris Sanigar protested, shouting: "All Woodhall did was run. Only one man was fighting."

Woodhall, who is being lined up for a lucrative unification match with the World Boxing Organisation champion Joe Calzaghe, blamed his lacklustre performance oo the late change of opponent, whils Catley countered: "I took this fight at 10 days' ootice, that's heing badly prepared. I did well. I thought I won it. But that doesn't pay ths bills. I just hope I get another chance."

● Mike Tyson's lawyer is taking the blame for writing Evander Holyfield's two-sentence letter supporting the former world champion's bid to fight in New Jersey. Questions about the letter's origin had prompted threats of a criminal investigation.

Anthony Fusco, Tyson's lawyer, said that he penned the letter which was submitted to ths Athletic Control Board when Tyson was seeking a licence in Atlantic City.

The letter has caused an uproar because Holyfield's lawyer retorted that a member of ths commission considering Tyson's request had written it in a bid to sway the board into granting the licence.

"We really just took a shot," Fusco said. "We wrote it and took it to a golf outing and asked him [Holyfield] if he would sign it."

The letter read: "Please be advised that I have no objections to Mr Tyson's application for a boxing licence in the State of New Jersey. I feel Mr Tyson has been sufficiently penalised over the past one year. Very Truly Yours, Evander Holyfield."

Sport in brief

Motor Cycling

Michael Doohan won the San Marino Grand Prix at Imola for the third year running yesterday to set up the tightest-ever run-in to a 500cc world championship. Doohan won in 48min 00.092sec with Spain's Alex Criville second and Max Biaggi of Italy third.

With four rounds to go Biaggi leads the overall standings on 189 points, only four ahead of Doohan and seven clear of Criville.

Niall Mackenzie tightened his grip on the Motor Cycle News British Snperhike Champiooship when the country's premier series returned to Silverstone after a 12-year hreak.

The 37-year-old from Dunblane took second and sixth places to move 57 points clear of his nearest rival Chris Walker with four races to go. Walker saw his hopes of a first title take a dip when he slid off his Kawasaki while leading on the second lap. The Nottingham rider managed to remount but earned only two points with a distant 14th place.

Chess

Garry Kasparov's £1.2m titls defence against Spain's Alexai Shirov has been indefinitely postponed. The world champion admitted this weekend that the province of Andalusia, which was to sponsor the 18-game series next month, had withdrawn following "polltical problems", *writes Leonard Barden.*

Yesterday Kasparov began a six-game match in Prague with the Dutch grand master Jan Timman, designed to train him for the now aborted titls series.

Cycling

Jeroen Blijlevens of Holland won yesterday's second stage of the Tour of Spain. Blijlevens avoided a four-man pile-up 50 metres from the finish in Cordoha to win in 6hr 30 min 24sec.

Rugby League

Super League: Halifax 33 Sheffield 16

Eagles brought down to earth

John Huxley

SHEFFIELD Eagles' win in the Challenge Cup at Wembley in May was generally thought to signal the club's breakthrough into the highest echelons of the Super League pecking order.

In reality that success has proved to be a false dawn. Their league form has spluttered sporadically and yesterday their chances of reaching the top five play-off positions suffered a grievous blow as they failed against third-placed Halifax.

The Eagles knew what was required. Victory was essential if they were to stand any chance of closing the gap between them and the fifth-placed Bradford Bulls. Now their coach John Kear concedes the task is beyond them.

Halifax produced the outstanding individual performance of the afternoon with a second-half hat-trick of tries from their South African winger Jamie Bloem. In Gavin Clinch, the Australian scrum-half, they also had a player whose distribution and tactical understanding ruled the game. Sheffield failed to contain him and ultimately paid the price. Clinch played a critical role in three of their four first-half tries.

If the Halifax centre Martin Pearson had been in anything like his normal kicking form, the match would have been beyond reach for Sheffield before the hreak. Unfortunately for Halifax be missed on all four occasions and the Eagles were still within range at half-time, though trailing 17-2.

Sheffield managed a more competitive approach in the second period, scoring tries through Paul Carr, Keith Senior and Willie Morganson, and Martin Wood added a solitary conversion.

Halifax, meanwhile, fashioned Bloem's exceptional hat-trick. He took every opportunity with clinical ease and Pearson even found his goal-kicking range to add two conversions.

Halifax Blue Sox: Gibson; Bloem, Powell, Pearson, Souvang; Chester, Clinch; Harrison, Rowley, Skerrett, Mercer, Clark, Baldwin. **Substitutes:** Marns, Marshall, Gillespie, Hall.
Sheffield Eagles: Sovatabua, Pinkney, Tsewa, Morganson, Sodje; Watson, Aston; Laughton, Lawless, Shaw, Carr, Senior, Doyle. **Substitutes:** Vassalakopoulous, Stephens, Wood, Cardona.
Referee: S Cummings (Widnes).

Paul inspires 12-try Wigan romp

HENRY PAUL, who is being linked with a move to Bradford, scored twice to inspire Wigan to a 58-6 win over Hull and reopen a two-point lead over Leeds at the top of Super League.

Jason Robinson and Lee Gilmour also touched down twice in a 12-try romp in which Gary Connolly collected his 100th try for the club. Andy Farrell let Hull off the hook by kicking only five goals from 12 attempts.

Warrington celebrated the 100th anniversary of their Wilderspool stadium with a 36-8 win over the bottom club Huddersfield, who are still looking for their first win since June.

With a common

As competitors from all over the globe converge on Kuala Lumpur for the Commonwealth Games which start this week, we profile seven athletes from these shores who are set to make a big impact in Malaysia

TONY MARSHALL

Kelly Morgan, Wales

THE first British singles player to reach the world top 10 and the favourite for a gold medal sounds as though she might be an early dividend on the millions of pounds invested through the National Lottery in English badminton.

Far from it. Kelly Morgan is from Wales where funding is at a lower level than in England and for much of her career she has had to soldier on with little money. This has necessitated lengthy stints in France and Denmark which have been lonely, if character-forming.

Morgan is modest and understated but extraordinarily determined and talented. She reached the final of the European Championships in Sofia in April and since returning to Cardiff last year she has seen off all domestic opposition.

She has become so much stronger that her movement, long reach and consistency have become difficult for all but the leading handful of players to break down. "She's only 23 and I don't think we yet know how much she can achieve," says her coach Chris Rees.

Morgan has been preparing for the debilitating conditions likely to be encountered in Kuala Lumpur by training in the "chamber of hell" at the Welsh National Sports Centre, in a small room heated up to 32C or more with 90 per cent humidity. Morgan has worked out for an hour at a time.

Her nearest rivals appear to be England's Julia Mann, Anne Gibson of Scotland, the New Zealander Rhona Robertson, India's improving youngster Aparna Popat, and Zarinah Abdullah from Singapore. But the odds are against any of them upsetting Morgan unless she upsets herself as she did briefly in the European final.

"When I came into the arena and sensed the atmosphere I thought 'Oooooh'," Morgan said then, explaining why for a game and a half against Denmark's *Camilla Martin* she was below her best. Now she sounds better prepared mentally: "I try not to think about the Commonwealth title too much because it puts added pressure. I will just try to be positive and play my own game."

Richard Jago

ADAM BUTLER

David Morgan, Wales

IF this 33-year-old Welshman wins another weightlifting gold medal at the Commonwealth Games maybe he should consider changing his name — to something like Priceless Morgan, perhaps.

In Victoria in 1994 he *equalled Precious* McKenzie's record of collecting gold medals at four consecutive Games and he is is now seeking to achieve something even more valuable in Kuala Lumpur.

No one in any sport has won gold medals in five Games and David Morgan has come out of retirement to try and make the dream a reality. He hung up his dumb-bells after Victoria but came back at the start of this year. "I started feeling if I was ever going to do something truly unique then it *was now or never," he said.*

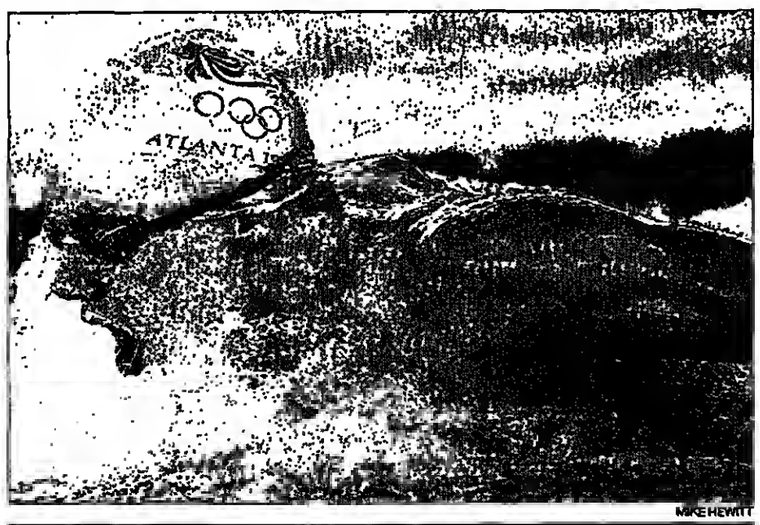
It was in Brisbane in 1982 that Morgan competed as a 17-year-old and shocked the weightlifting world by winning the first of his seven gold medals. "It means just as much to me now as it did then to win a Commonwealth gold medal," he said. "It's a big thing in this country."

A change of Christian name might also help Morgan receive some long overdue recognition. McKenzie carved out a career as a television per*sonality* on *the back of his* achievements, but Morgan remains a largely anonymous figure outside his own sport. McKenzie was adopted as a loveable English hero and appeared on Blue Peter and Celebrity Squares. But he competed in a less sceptical era: Morgan's career has been blighted by the sins of others. Weightlifting is plagued by the curse of drugs like no other sport. In Auckland in 1990, two Welsh competitors, Gareth Hives and Rickie Chaplin, failed drug tests.

Morgan's delight at winning gold there gave way to bitterness when he became aware of the constant innuendo that his family and friends had to endure back home. Even in Victoria his achievement was partly overshadowed by further drug scandals involving English athletes Paul Edwards and Diane Modahl.

Throughout Morgan's reputation has been unblemished. At 5ft 9in, his 12 stone frame ripples with muscles. "The media often focus on the super-heavyweights, but they're fat guys who give the rest of us a bad name. When people see me in normal clothes they don't expect me to be a weightlifter. They are expecting some huge Russian."

Duncan Mackay



MIKE HEWITT

James Hickman, England

SO FAR the build-up to Kuala Lumpur has gone according to plan for the English swimmer who has a chance of four individual medals. He is not lying in bed, attached to a saline drip hanging from the wardrobe, as he was before the European Championships in Seville; neither has he split up with his coach as he did shortly before the World Championships earlier this year in Perth.

In fact, James Hickman's preparations have been remarkably straightforward. Thousands of lengths of the Leeds International Pool, an hour a day in the gym, and occasional contemplation of the Games that can finally bring him acclaim.

Hickman is ranked third in the 100m butterfly and 200m and 400m medleys. But it is in the 100 fly that he is expected to lift England's spirits by taking the gold.

The two days that he spent on that drip in Seville, the worst casualty among the British team of a stomach bug that caused him to lose almost a stone in weight, remain etched on his memory. "I was so focused that I kept telling myself crazy things, like that if I was lighter I would be able to go faster. I was up for the event and I didn't let it go. I made the B final, but my time was one-and-a-half seconds slower than I had swum."

Hickman retreated to Menorca with his girlfriend, rebuilt his strength on a diet of milk and steak, and reset his sights on the World Championships. But further disruption followed when he left Stockport Metro, his club since childhood, and his coach Dave Callejo.

The move was necessary, but perhaps it was ill timed. Hickman was fifth in the World Championships, looking well placed for a bronze medal until he tied up on the third 50 and finished fifth.

"Dave had known me too long as a child and, as I grew older, I needed to develop some independence, to learn from my own mistakes," Hickman explained last week before he left for the England swimming team's acclimatisation camp in Singapore.

Under the guidance of Terry Denison, who coached Adrian Moorhouse to breaststroke Olympic gold, he is confident that he can make the breakthrough.

The switch from Stockport's cramped pool to Leeds' 50-metre facility, now adopted as an official regional centre, has enabled Hickman to explore the extent of his endurance. There are few more ebullient swimmers about, but this time it should also be a far more assured Hickman who competes for Commonwealth gold.

David Hopps

Desmond Curry, Northern Ireland

PATRICK EAGAR

Master class . . . Vivian Jenkins lectures boys at *Dover College in 1933*
PHOTOGRAPH: HULTON GETTY

Way back when

Frank Keating meets the Welsh wizard who gave South Africa the boot in the Thirties

PRECISELY 60 years ago, the 1938 British Lions in *South Africa* were aboard a steamer en route to Cape Town from Port Elizabeth. They were now two down in the three-Test rubber, having lost 26-12 in Johannesburg on August 6 and 19-3 in Port Elizabeth on September 3. After the sea journey, they rousingly beat the Springboks at Newlands 21-16, at the end of which the British Isles captain Sammy Walker was shouldered from the field by a thrilled and generous throng.

Walker later became a celebrated BBC radio commentator on rugby. He died at 69 in 1972. The Lions' full-back Vivian Jenkins recalls: "Sammy was a wonderful fel*low, an inspiring leader* who never stopped beguiling all southern Africa with When Irish Eyes are Smiling.

A "wonderful fellow" too is Jenkins himself. He will be 87 this November 2. Born at Port Talbot, Jenkins won Oxford Blues at cricket and rugby and kept wicket for Glamorgan on and off between 1931 and 1937.

But it was his cricketer's flypaper hands, his pruning-shears' tackles, and spiralling torpedo kicks which made him a legend on the rugby fields of Wales and the world through the Thirties — and even moreso later when he became a sportswriter for the Sunday Times and covered with *distinction* and grace MCC cricket tours and six further Lions tours till 1974.

Jenkins has had three hip operations but, bright-eyed and chuckle constant in his Hertfordshire home, he remains full of both the joys and his rich and rewarding memories.

"They were mighty long *tours then. In 1938* we went there and back by Union Castle liner. We won 11 of our 14 matches before the first Test, but I mostly remember the travelling. We measured travel times in days, not hours. Except for the 35-mile bitumen road between Jo'burg and Pretoria, every *road was unmade* and corrugated and you could be shaken to pieces in a car. So we went mostly by rail.

"Before the first Test, we had to go from the Cape all the way up to Rhodesia for two matches, then back to play Transvaal — it was seven nights out of 11 sleeping in a train. Oh, no, not an express — 30mph *maximum*, narrow-gauge, single track, and special passing places when we were diverted into sidings."

Dinner-jackets *de rigueur* for every man says the legend? "What do you mean, dinner-jackets? White-tie and tails and the full works, old boy, if you don't mind."

The schedule seemed even worse than today's: "We were sent like yo-yos from altitude to sea level and back again. In Johannesburg your golf drives were flying 280 yards, in Durban the same shot was 200 yards. From full-back, my clearing punts on the High Veldt would go 70-80 yards, down at Newlands 50-55 yards."

In the first Test, the history books say "three times in the first-half prodigious kicks by Jenkins gave the Lions the lead each time". The old man smiles and says: "To my dying day, I'll never forget one of

هكذا من الأصل

goal

Pauline Richards, Scotland

THERE will be more that one British competitor aiming for medal glory in the heptathlon. England's Denise Lewis may he the favourite to take gold, hut Pauline Richards, aka Rocket of Gladiators, is ready and fuelled for a tartan take off at the Games.

Richards was born in the Midlands hut qualifies to represent Scotland, having lived long enongh in Fife to establish residential qualifications.

The 6ft, 13 stone Richards admits she cuts a strange figure in Dunfermline, but is looking forward to pulling on the blue vest of Scotland. "I'm far happier here than I was in England," she says in her hroad Wolverhampton accent.

"People here are friendlier. I admit I was apprehensive at first about how they wonld react to me. There aren't many hlack people here, hut it's been hrilliant. I cannot pretend I'm Scottish, hnt I will he proud to wear the tartan in Kuala Lumpur."

She moved to Scotland to be closer to her coach John Anderson, who is better known as the American football-style referee of Gladiators.

"I thought this was just another large lady who wanted to try out for Gladiators, so I tried to fob her off," recalls Anderson. "But she said she wanted me to coach her."

Anderson refused initially because he said the fact that he lived in Fife and she was in Wolverhampton made it an unworkable arrangement.

So Richards quit her job and moved north. "I was impressed with her commitment," says Anderson.

Richards, 29, comes from good sporting stock. Two of her six brothers have played cricket professionally, two box and another was a good class 400 metres runner.

But behind this tale of success there is profound sadness.

Her brother Michael, who fought under the name of Tucker Richards and sparred with Frank Bruno and Lennox Lewis, died in 1992 of a heart attack, aged 25.

"It was caused by congestion of the heart, where the valve doesn't pump blood quickly enough," Richards explains.

It was the start of a nightmare 12 months during which her 10-year relationship with the international hurdler Andy Tulloch ended; she lost her job as a fashion buyer; split with her coach; got heavily into debt; and wrote off an uninsured car.

"I am surprised I lived," ahe says. "Overall, I was a complete mess. It just all did my head in. One day I had a problem at the bank, burst into tears and ran out. I couldn't work out why I reacted lika that until I realised it was Michael's death finally sinking in."

Anderson helped Richards get back on her feet when he arranged an audition for Gladiators last year.

However, she was selected on her own merits and her life has been in orbit ever since.

She is managed by the former Olympic javelin champion Tessa Sanderson, who arranges celebrity appearances.

"I made it, and that has solved the financial problems. It also allows me to train full time."

There must be something in the air about Wolverhampton, because Lewis is also from the city. But Anderson predicts: "Pauline can score 6,000 points which should put her in medal contention."

If that happens, Rocket will be among the stars.

Duncan Mackay

JAMIE MCDONALD

Chris Sheasby, England

FOR the Harlequins No. 8 there might have been a touch of déjà vu as he met his England team-mates at Heathrow on Saturday night. As the sevens squad flew to Malaysia yesterday for the inaugural rugby competition, Chris Sheasby's thoughts are likely to have gone back to the spring of 1993 when a similar bunch of starry-eyed Englishmen were picked for the World Cup Sevens tournament in Edinburgh.

Five years ago the inexperienced England squad confounded the world in the land which invented sevens — and affronted the Scots — by winning the trophy after defeating David Campese's Australia in the final at Murrayfield.

Sheasby is the only playing survivor from 1993 and very much the senior-pro among the 10 who will represent England in Malaysia. There the player known by some of his old team-mates as 'The Duke' will team up with 'Tha Prince', the player formerly known as Andrew Harriman, another hero from Edinburgh and now the England sevens coach.

"I'm quietly excited about this tournament. There are shades of '93 everywhere you look," says Sheasby. "We managed to get together for three training sessions before flying off and the squad have gelled. They have lots of potential. Jim Jenner, for instance, is tall, strong and powerful. A Tim Rodber-style player.

"Nick Baxter, the Worcester wing, scored 16 tries in the Safari Sevens which I've just got back from in Kenya. He's in the Jeff Wilson mould, a very muscular player. Mike Friday, the Wasps scrum-half, is a very snappy player, perfect for sevens and the Saracens centre Chris Davies will also make an impact."

England, who arrived in Kuala Lumpur earlier today, have got little time to acclimatise to the high humidity before playing Bermuda in their first group game on Saturday. The group also includes Kenya and Tonga.

Sheasby has always given sevens priority and thinks more English players should do the same. "Players like Jonah Lomu and Christian Cullen honed their game through sevens. There's no hiding place, you need to think on your feet and make decisions under pressure.

"And it's wonderfully ironic, isn't it, that in a game which we give little credit here, we have won our only World Cup."

Ian Malin

Jon Mutch, Scotland

THE most promising young male gymnast in Britain could have an identity problem at these Games. He will be competing for Scotland, considers himself English and could, as his mother was born in Sabah in Malaysian North Borneo, appear for the host nation.

Mutch, 18, proved his talent at the European Championships in St Petersburg in May by finishing 10th overall in the junior competition, the best achievement by a British junior.

He was born in Aberdeen but spent precious little time there, moving at nine months to Lowestoft. So bright was his talent that by his 11th birthday he had changed his base to Kings Lynn to be nearer his coach, Paul Hall, and was effectively being fostered by a couple at the club after his parents separated. A year later he moved to Huntingdon, and trained at the gym there.

His progress has been swift and in the past three years he has won National age-group titles at under-16 (twice) and under-18 (once).

Kuala Lumpur will be only the fourth occasion that the Games have featured gymnastics and, till now, a Scottish competitor has never placed higher than Steve Frew's fifth on the high bar in 1994.

While the Games are Mutch's baptism at a senior international championships, he will have aspirations in the high bar and floor and could come close to a medal in the all-around competition.

Mutch will not be lacking support. His father David, mother Morag, sister Tanya, aunts Sheila and Dorothy and grandparents Marianne and Ken, who live in Aberdeen, are all flying out from the UK.

When the gymnastics are over, they will go on to Sabah and spend three weeks at Membakut, the kampong (village) where his grandmother grew up, where she met his grandfather Ken, who was in the RAF, and where his mother was born. Mutch will be greeted as one of the family and, if there is a medal round his neck, they will doubtless count it as one for Malaysia.

Pete Nichols

SCOTTISH NEWS AND SPORT

Games timetable

Opening ceremony Sept 11

Athletics Sept 16-21
Highlights: 16: Men's 10,000m, women's hammer throw. 17: Men's and women's 100m, women's 400m, men's discus. 18: Men's 400m, women's 400m hurdles, men's triple jump, women's discus. 19: Men's and women's 200m, men's high jump, women's long jump. 20: Men's and women's marathon, women's high jump, women's discus, men's 110m hurdles, men's long jump. 21: Men's javelin, men's and women's 1500m, men's and women's 4x100m relay.

Badminton Sept 9-21

Bowls Sept 12-20

Boxing Sept 12-20

Cricket Sept 9-19

Cycling Sept 12-20
Highlights: 12-15: Road racing. 17-20: Pursuits and sprints.

Diving Sept 18-20
Highlights: 18: Women's and men's 1m springboard. 19: Women's platform, men's 3m springboard. 20: Women's 3m springboard, men's platform.

Gymnastics Sept 12-21

Hockey Sept 9-20

Netball Sept 14-21

Rugby Union Sept 12-14

Shooting Sept 7-20

Squash Sept 12-20

Swimming Sept 12-17
Highlights: 12: Women's 100m freestyle. 13: Men's 100m butterfly. 14: Men's 100m freestyle, women's 4x100m freestyle. 15: Men's 4x100m freestyle, women's 100m breastroke. 16: Women's 800m freestyle, men's 50m freestyle. 17: Women's 50m freestyle, men's 4x100m medley relay.

Tenpin bowling Sept 13-16

Weightlifting Sept 16-19

Clean and jerks of the snatch squad remain Lightyears behind

FAIR GAME

Julie Welch

ONE of the lasting charms of the Commonwealth Games is that they are full of sportsmen and women who are not making lots of money by serialising their books in the Sun. They are for the likes of weightlifters, netball players and tenpin bowlers: normal people with daytime careers in fish packing or the postal service who devote years of hard graft and all their savings to winning medals at activities in which nobody outside weightlifting, netballing and tenpin bowling has the slightest interest.

This leaves them free to enjoy what sport is really all about — the satisfaction of pursuing excellence for its own sake, the challenge of pitting themselves against other fish-packers and postal workers from all over the world, and the rewards of a healthy life in the fresh air. Except, of course, in the case of weightlifters who, when not packing fish or delivering letters, spend all their time at the gym breathing in bacteria from other people's armpits.

Weightlifting has never really caught on as a TV sport; the viewer finds it hard to appreciate the skill and effort involved. This is because it mainly consists of bending down, picking up something very heavy and putting it down again without falling sideways or accidentally lobbing 200kg of metal into the judges' teeth.

Another reason why weightlifters are not regular guests on A Question Of Sport or They Think It's All Over is that they are very gloomy people. This is due to the fact that whereas no machine on earth would reproduce the speed and balance of Michael Owen, the coocentration and grace of Brian Lara or the power and stickability of Greg Rusedski, even the best weightlifter on the planet knowa that a forklift truck could do 10 times the joh in a qoarter of the time.

Equally meaningless to the uninformed spectator are those numbers, such as 305 or 155, on the scoreboard. A much better idea would be to describe the weights in everyday terms; it's much easier to appreciate someone's achievement if told that he has just hoisted the equivalent of two nightclub bouncers over his head. Meanwhile, the scoreboards could be used to disseminate useful information such as traffic updates or Glenn Hoddle's home phone number for people to ring him with helpful suggestions about team selection.

Weightlifters are made even more morose by the knowledge that while tenpin bowlers are allowed to dress op in colourful, zappy outfits such as Hawaiian shirts and pedal pushers all they get to wear are leotards. At least it might make a more interesting spectacle if an element of fancy dress was introdnced to the competition, like making them lift the dumb-bells over their heads while wearing a Carmen Miranda-style hat or asking them to perform the snatch on roller skates.

The Commonwealth Games organisers might also consider adapting the multi-discipline format of the biathlon in the Winter Olympics and have weightlifters trying to shoot dumb-bells through hoops, then rolling them along the platform to see how many fellow competitors they could knock down. This would also have the virtue of economy as it would cut ont the need to run separate competitions for netball and tenpin bowling. One more reason for weightlifters' dissatisfactioo is that they are unusually prone to colds; at least one or other of them always seem to be suffering disqualification owing to some over-the-counter nostrum which they are innocently taking to relieve their symptoms.

Looking on the bright side. Although a weightlifter who wants to get something in print might not find ony takers for his autohiography; he ia ideally placed to write the definitive work on cold cures. The advantage of living with a weightlifter is that he comes in very useful to hold your house up when you knock through a load-bearing wall to enlarge the kitchen, then realise you've forgotten to use a rolled steel joist.

WEIGHTLIFTING categories have names which suggest urgent dynamic male activity: clean and jerk, pumping iron, close shave, roll over and start snoring. However, potential female admirers tend to be put off by the fact that though seven days a week of cleaning and jerking prodnces the body of a Greek god it also leaves a face stuck in a permanent grimace.

Making conversation with weightlifters can be difficult as they are programmed only to communicate in a limited oumber of ways. Like those talking Buzz Lightyears whose conversation dried up after, "To infinity — and beyond!", weightlifters will respond to anything from "Did yon remember to put Brillo pads on the shopping list?" to "Do yon think Russia should abandon all attempts at making a capitalist economy work?" with a series of grunts interspersed hy the occasional 'Oof.' It's also best not to stand too close to them when they are in action, not just because yon might catch their cold hut because yon might rapidly discover what it's like to have two night-clnh bouncers dropped on your foot.

Peat chases the rainbow's end in race of a lifetime

CENTRE STAGE

Pete Nichols

Steep task . . . Peat pedals his wares PHOTOGRAPH: GEOFF WAUGH

IN Britain, about two million adults play football regularly. It is roughly the same number of people (though oot always the same people) who ride mountain bikes. On the evening that England played Argentina in France 98, 23.6 million viewers tuned in to watch the game. When the World Mountain Bike Championships begin next weekend at Mont Sainte Anne, Quebec there will be more spokes coming down the mountain that week than there will be viewers for Sky's coverage.

That is because there is no crossover between the recreatioo of mountain hiking and the sport, which makes it tough on Steve Peat. The Sheffield rider chose the wrong branch of the sport anyway when, six years ago, he was persuaded to take part in his first race.

Peat won and, though once a good enough footballer to play for Sheffield Boys, has gone on to become Britain's very best downhill racer. Unfortunately, when the sport went Olympic in Atlanta, they only accepted the cross-country riders. The wild men and women of the downhill discipline were left out.

If that limits the bounds of his ambition, it is not evident. Peat is enthusiastic about a lifesyle that has taken him this summer to World Cup races in Spain, Italy, Austria, Japan, American and Canada and brings him a respectable income as well from his contract with the American-based Team GT outfit.

The really tough part comes in winter when they train for aix months in . . . California, at Huntingdon Beach, south of Los Angeles. "I'm really happy, it's going cool," he says and you would expect to hear nothing less.

Peat had his first season only three years ago and the progress has been rapid. From 31st in his first World Cup campaign, he leapt to sixth in his second year on the circuit. He could have been second last year, hut a stack (fall) in the final cost him places and he finished eighth overall.

Spills are part and parcel of downhill racing; Peat dislocated his hip in pre-season training and recently underwent an operation on his elbow for a damaged hursa sac. In some races, where the gradient is steep and the course direct, they can reach speeds of 60mph. That is the downside, when you come off the bike it hurts. It can hurt the bike, too, and the GT Lobo that Peat rides costs about £5,000.

Like the rest of the world's downhill racers, Peat is hanging on the coattails of the Nicolas Vouilloz. The Frenchman is everyone's choice to keep the title he first won at Cairns, Australia two years ago and retained in Chateau d'Oex, Switzerland last September.

He is the sport's superstar, with earnings to match (say $500,000 a year). In Japan, in the last World Cup race before Canada, 15,000 fans saw him swoop for another victory and another World Cup title. "I don't like the mud," said the Frenchman, hut he won in a mire anyway.

Peat has beaten Vouilloz once this year, at the fifth World Cup event (out of eight) on the Snoqualmie course in the foothills of the Wenatchee mountains near Seattle. Peat described the course as technical, but that sells it short. "Wicked," said the official race report of the 3,000 metre path through rocks and gravel, which included one sheer six-foot drop. Peat revelled in it, the 24-year-old recording his first World Cup victory and, in the process, defeating Vouilloz by almost three seconds.

The technically demanding rides suit the Briton; the more jumps, twists and turns the better. It may be in the genes; his dad Tony was a top Trials riders for six years and that too is about balance and control, even if the bike in question is a sight heavier. Rob Warner, the No2 British rider, also came from a Trials background.

Peat flies to Canada at the end of this week. The championships begin on Saturday, hut they have eight days training before the downhill the following weekend.

The title is decided over a single run, probably lasting less than seven minutes. There are no second chances. "All that way, just for one run," says Peat, but there is no exasperation, the riders are attuned to the all or nothing philosophy.

If you win, you wear the rainbow jersey for the whole of the next season. The wardrobe of Vouilloz would seem empty without it, but Peat knows that, with his own Team GT contract up for renewal this autumn, there could be no better bargaining counter than a close-run race with the Frenchman.

In Quebec, Vouilloz will not be without support and, dauntingly, the last time an Englishman weot to those parts and won anything was probably James Wolfe, and he did it on the plains, not on a mountain.

IN the wake of the Good Friday Agreement, some well-meaning letter-writers to the Dublin newspapers advocated that the Republic of Ireland should rejoin the Commonwealth. The fact that the country is not a member means that, although cricket has always transcended the two political jurisdictions in Ireland, the team who will represent the Emerald Isle in Kuala Lumpur will be drawn from the North.

But it will enable one of Ireland's most gifted players to display his talents on the Commonwealth stage. Desmond "Decker" Curry returns after missing the all-island side's busiest ever summer in representative terms, which included matches against South Africa and Bangladesh.

The pride of Limavady in County Derry is not an admirer of Ireland's national coach Mike Hendrick and at the start of the summer said so in a local newspaper, effectively ruling himself out of the national side.

Hendrick has no involvement in the first-ever Northern Ireland team and Curry apparently has been rehabilitated with the national selectors, two of whom managed to persuade him to sign a form making himself available for Ireland duty next season before the squad left for the Games.

He might also have to rehabilitate himself with his team-mates as well. A comment to the effect that his club side, Limavady, would beat Hendrick's Ireland team was not well received by his colleagues.

Curry is a natural, explosive batting talent and was one of Ireland's heroes in their historic Benson & Hedges victory over Middlesex in Dublin last year. The opening batsman scored a swift and fiery 75 to earn tha Gold award.

In 1997, his last summer in the national aide, he scored 391 runs for an average of 30.08 and, being a useful bowler to boot, took nine wickets. Last week, Curry captained Limavady to the club's fifth successive win in the North West League, and while local observers say that his form has been patchy, he still managed to accumulate well over 1,000 runs during the summer.

Those who want to see Irish cricket blossom will hope that Curry will patch up his differences with Hendrick, and the rather old-fashioned gentlemen who run the Irish Cricket Union. And hopefully, too, next summer the ICU will not be obliged to append oh-so-formal footnotes to team announcements, informing tha press that "J D Curry (Limavady) was not available for selection because of business commitments".

As one cynical journalist said — "I bet Decker was making a killing".

Karl Johnston

them — from just a yard outside my own 10-yard line. It just sailed into the stratosphere and kept going straight as an arrow.

"I remember still our great Irish lock, Blair Mayne, swearing behind me in the wonder of it as the ball soared high between the posts all of 62-or-three yards away, and one of their forwards afterwards told me it would still have cleared the bar if I'd taken it from 10 yards further back.

"To be honest, we only made great friends with the English-speaking Springbok players, terrific chaps like Freddie Turner, the centre, or fly-half Tony Harris, who was also a South African cricketer and as an attacking 'fly' almost on a par, I'd say, with Cliff Morgan. The Afrikaner players stuck mostly to themselves — in fact, even when I became a journalist it was 17 years before that famous Springbok captain of 1938, Danie Craven, so much as addressed a single word to me."

In the last five minutes of that first Test, Jenkins badly pulled a hamstring muscle and he missed the second and third. His fellow Oxford Blue Charlie Grieve of Scotland deputised and helped to win the epic third Test with a crucial drop goal. By then there were a string of other crocks and only 17 fit men to choose from for that heroic last stand at Cape Town, where eight of the XV were Irishmen.

"What fun we had, what companionship between us, all for one, one for all. Mayne was a mighty Irishman and he and our great Welsh hooker Bunner Travers particularly teamed up in a gorgeously wild Celtic duo. Mayne was a lawyer, Travers a coal-trimmer. At Durban, say, or Cape Town, of an evening the two of them would tog up like rough matelots, go down to the docks and hang around looking for a punch-up just for the fun and the hell of it, the more ferocious the better.

"Once at Durban, the rest of us in our white ties and tails were filing into a tremendously posh ball, our ladies in all their finery on our arms — and Blair and Bunner, cut and grazed and just back from the docks, ambushed us at the top of the ballroom stairs, tore into us and debagged more than a few of us."

Mayne's unflinching approach to life typified his rugby and also, a year or two later, his war — where as a commando in north Africa and Europe he won as many as four DSOs for bravery as well as the *Légion d'honneur*. He died, still only 40, near his Newtownards home in 1955 when his car hit a lampost late at night.

"He was an astonishingly wild, good man. But those youthful sporting comrades were all terrific fellows — and just about all of us have gone now," the ancient warrior says with a sigh.

"But I just thank God that us chaps had the best of it, the time of our lives through the joys of rugby. Not any more. I watch my beloved cricket now; so much more to cricket to absorh you. This new rugby's not remotely the same game, I'm just not interested in it any more, sorry and all that."

Rugby Union

Premiership One: Richmond 41 Newcastle 29

Richmond raise their standard

Robert Armstrong sees the champions swept aside at the Madejski Stadium

RICHMOND, vibrant and versatile, showed the positive face of English rugby with a roller-coaster performance that swept aside the champions and underlined their own Premiership ambitions. Six slickly worked tries, two of them by the flanker Robbie Hutton, exposed embarrassing gaps in the Newcastle defence which may shortly force owner Sir John Hall to reach for his chequebook.

It was the best possible pipe-opener for Richmond at their new home, the Madejski Stadium on the outskirts of Reading, which was filled with a crowd big enough (9,530) to suggest their bold decision to move there will be a success. Although around one third of the fans had received complimentary tickets, the turn-out was still a far cry from last season's average attendance of less than 4,000 at the Athletic Ground.

If Richmond, who bought shrewdly in the close season, can maintain the remarkable level of skill and control they achieved against Rob Andrew's muscular side, they should have no problem pulling in five-figure support once their community projects get into full swing.

The example of Saracens, who doubled their gate on the strength of last season's winning side, serves as an encouraging model for Richmond in their attempts to expand.

Richmond's biggest assets are their international players, Ben Clarke, Spencer Brown, Allan Bateman and the Argentine scrum-half Agustin Pichot who all revelled in Newcastle's discomfort, roared on by their delighted supporters. Sussing out the Tynesiders' weakness at scrum and line-out, Clarke's opportunistic side wasted no chance to exploit their opponents' hesitation with a searing break or surging drive to the line.

"One or two key players have left Newcastle and they have a lot of older men in their side," said John Kingston, Richmond's director of rugby. "Newcastle played the way I thought they'd play — we could have scored 50 points. They will have to rebuild and develop young players like Johnny Wilkinson to get things right."

In fact, Wilkinson, one of the youngsters on whom Clive Woodward has pegged England's future, had such an ineffectual game that he was substituted near the end. In theory he was playing at fly-half while Andrew wore the No. 12 shirt; in practice frequent switching of positions between the two created mid-field confusion which Richmond were happy to exploit. To make matters worse, Wilkinson's goal-kicking was so wayward that eventually Andrew took over the job.

Newcastle's captain Dean Ryan shrugged off the departure of Pat Lam, Alan Tait and Tim Stimpson, denying that the club had been lethargic in looking for replacements. "We have signed a South African prop Marius Hurter who joins us next month," said Ryan. "I feel insulted by the suggestion that we lack ambition — if we did I wouldn't be at this club."

Ryan was candid about the reasons for Newcastle's defeat, their second at the hands of Richmond this year. "The rules have changed and you just have to adjust," he said. "You cannot keep the ball now for long periods — you have to move it away from the tackle. Our scrum creaked and Richmond caused us a lot of problems that we'll have to work on in training."

Kingston, whose job was thought to be on the line last spring, pointed out that Richmond, a third division side three years ago, had probably made quicker progress than any of their rivals. "Last season our players experienced Premiership rugby for the first time but we still finished fifth. This time they'll know what to expect — the building blocks are in place and we'll aim to ask questions of the opposition."

Richmond's questions came from all quarters but they were especially lethal at short range, scoring four tries from set-pieces close to the line. First Clarke, then Pichot stormed over from five-metre scrums in the right corner and after Bateman raced home to score from long range, the industrious Hutton twice touched down from a drive-maul when Craig Quinnell won line-outs in the right corner. Brown completed the blitz with a superb solo break.

Trailing 41-15, Newcastle ultimately saved their blushes with well worked scores near the end by Inga Tuigamala and Doddie Weir. But no one, least of all Sir John Hall, will be fooled by that late flourish.

SCORERS: Richmond: Tries: Clarke, Pichot, Bateman, Hutton 2, Brown. **Conversions:** Davies 4. **Penalties:** Davies. **Newcastle: Tries:** Naylor, Walton, Tuigamala, Weir. **Conversions:** Wilkinson, Andrew 2. **Penalty:** Wilkinson.

Richmond: Pitt; Brown, Bateman, Ocana, Chapman; A Davies (Va'a, 72min), Pichot; McFarland, Williams, Crompton (J Davies, 65), Quinnell (Codling, 71), Gillies, Hutton (Cabannes, 64), Vander, Clarke (capt).

Newcastle: Legg; Naylor, Tuigamala, Andrew, Underwood; Wilkinson (Massey 65min), Armstrong; Popplewell, Nesdale, Graham, Archer, Weir, O'Neil, Arnold (Walton, 40), Ryan (capt).

Referee: E Morrison (Bristol).

Centre of attention . . . Allan Bateman of Richmond is held up by Newcastle's Va'aiga Tuigamala PHOTOGRAPH: BEN DUFFY

Gloucester 29
London Irish 22

Exiles under the cosh

Robert Kitson

GIVE a policeman a shiny new truncheon and see how long it hangs idly from his belt. Much the same principle applied at Kingsholm where the referee Steve Savage diligently set about exploring the full range of sin-bin possibilities inside the season's first 32 minutes. You scarcely needed to listen to the wounded tenor of Dick Best's post-match remarks to feel Irish were the recipients of a rather unfair official coshing.

Having started well, the Exiles problems stemmed from the award of a penalty try in the 17th minute when Peter Rogers, Irish's debutant hooker head prop, was deemed to have dropped a scrum once too often. As well as conceding seven points, it earned him the distinction of being the Premiership's first sin-binned player and triggered a chain of events which allowed a below-par Gloucester to escape a disturbing fate.

With Jake Boer hauled off to ensure a specialist front-row replacement, Irish proved stubborn adversaries even with Rogers, Kent-born and Welsh-educated but most recently employed by the Gauteng Lions, twiddling his meaty thumbs.

Gloucester's pack, marched miles backwards at one eye-catching scrum, already knew they were in a battle when, with Rogers back, the Cherry and Whites were awarded a free-kick on their own 22. As Scott Benton took a quick tap, Rogers failed to retreat 10 metres and, for this unparalleled act allied to his earlier white card, the astonished prop saw red.

The gallant 14 remaining visitors, with Borr again removed to allow Mike Worsley to fill the front-row void, were back in front at 19-16 with 25 minutes to go. Then, Mark Mapletoft, also sin-binned in the 51st minute for a spot of shirt-pulling, re-emerged to knock over a couple more well-struck penalties and nip through for the decisive 71st-minute try in a personal haul of 24 points. Even then the visitors substitute winger Simon Berridge had to be desperately bundled into touch as he surged up the left touchline in injury-time, confirming Best's belief that his eclectic squad had not had the rub of the green.

"I'm in favour of the sin-bin concept but we've seen the downside today," he said, pleading for common sense while simultaneously testing the threatened clampdown on coaches who publicly criticise referees. "We lost a game and two points by a somewhat erratic decision which I'm struggling to come to terms with. I see a month of this nonsense before things settle down." He is now waiting to see what precedent is set regarding any ban on Rogers, guilty of two technical offences rather than foul play.

Gloucester, who go to Reading to face Richmond this weekend, encountered an Irish side defending, in Best's words, "like a pack of dogs". A crowd of only 5,267, perhaps a reflection on a 40 per cent hike in season-ticket prices, saw "a very jittery performance" on the admission of Gloucester's director of rugby Richard Hill.

"Unless we play 100 per cent better next week we'll end up with a very big defeat. It wasn't a typical Gloucester performance. It was more like our away form." In short, there were miserable sinners all over the place.

SCORERS: Gloucester: Tries: Penalty try, Mapletoft. **Conversions:** Mapletoft 2. **Penalties:** Mapletoft 5. **London Irish: Tries:** Jones. **Conversions:** Woods. **Penalties:** Woods 5.

Gloucester: Calling; Johnson, Fenoulon, Tombs, Saint-Andre; Mapletoft, Benton; Woodman, McCarthy (Ferrier, 65min), Vickery (Deacon, 73), Fidler, Sims (capt) (Cornwell, 65), Ojomoh, Carter, Devereux.

London Irish: O'Shea (capt); Bishop, Venter, Burrows (Todd, 65), Woods (Berridge, 80); Jones (Brown, 78), Campbell; Rogers, Kirke (Hewe, 50), Hardwick (Fullman, 50), Harvey, O'Kelly, Boer (Worsley, 32), Davison, Spicer.

Referee: S Savage (Warwickshire)

Leicester 49 Harlequins 15

Tigers sever Brooke bonds

David Irvine

NO ONE expected this. Zinzan Brooke's debut as captain-coach of Harlequins, eagerly anticipated by supporters, began ignominiously on Saturday at Leicester, where the Londoners had won in five of eight previous league visits, with his side being routed by seven tries to nil.

Brooke, an All Black colossus for most of the past decade, was anonymous as a player and gave the impression that, as coach, he could do nothing to address Quins' problems — especially at the line-out.

Some of their defensive eccentricities defied belief and a great deal of work is needed if Brooke is to do for them what his fellow former All Black Wayne Shelford did for Northampton.

"There are no excuses. We were awful," admitted yet another former All Black, the Quins director of rugby John Gallagher. Leicester's coach Dean Richards summed up the match succinctly. "We played as a team. They didn't."

Indeed Leicester's teamwork, bearing in mind it was their first match of the season, was remarkable. While the Quins were frantically attempting to understand one another, the Tigers were as one whether playing their familiar but lethal mauling game or in their snack-from-anywhere mode that brought two spectacular tries.

"People have said the mauling game is out the window," said Richards with a laugh. "But I don't think that it is, especially when defences fan off and you can release the ball and give Austin [Healey] and the boys a bit of space and time."

It was these repeated drives, often set up by Fritz Van Heerden, that showed up Quins' deficiencies. To make matters worse, when forced to scrummage near their own line the Quins front five were invariably shunted backwards.

In the loose Neil Back ended the game in dominant fashion and the crowd's favourite, Richard Cockerill, unlucky to be sin-binned after a team warning, was outstanding.

"I've not enjoyed myself as much for a very long time as I did today," admitted Healey, who trailed his pack for perhaps the easiest try of his career.

While none of Quins' half-dozen newcomers really impressed, except John Schuster as a goal-kicker, Leicester's debutants Pat Howard and Tim Stimpson contributed significantly, the England full-back being especially sharp on the counter-attack.

Repeated failures by Schuster and the full-back David Officer to find touch gave the sure-handed Stimpson countless opportunities to win over the 13,000-strong crowd. It was Joel Stransky who really ran the show, though, concluding the try-feast with a score between the posts to take his tally to 19 points.

Earlier the Springbok had handled the ball three times in a spectacular 11-pass move that gave Leon Lloyd the first of two tries in six minutes.

SCORERS: Leicester: Tries: Ezulike, Healey, Cockerill, Lloyd 2, Back, Stransky. **Conversions:** Stransky 4. **Penalties:** Stransky 2. **Harlequins: Penalties:** Schuster 5.

Leicester: Stimpson; Lloyd, Potter (Overend, 78min), Howard, Ezulike (Loughead, 73); Stransky, Healey; Jelley (Rowntree, 73), Cockerill, Garforth, Johnson (capt), Van Heerden (Fletcher, 78), Guntard, Back, Corry.

Harlequins: Officer, O'Leary, Power, Mensah (Going, 58), Luger; Schuster, Harries; Leonard, Wood, Helpin, Morgan, Davison, Bibby, Jenkins, Brooke (capt).

Referee: A Rowden (Berkshire).

Bath 36 Wasps 27

Catt keeps control amid a confusion of colours

Ian Malin

THE English game may have nsbered in its third season of professionalism, but amateurism lives on. And so, in the age of the Internet, rugby's masters still haven't quite got the bang of the telephone.

Wasps arrived at the Recreation Ground intending to wear their black shirts, but a colour clash forced them to don an orange so bright that the spectators should have been issued with sunglasses.

The new law on white cards rather than yellow was then ignored by the Irish referee Bertie Smith, who brandished yellow to a baffled Martin Haag of Bath and Wasps' Paul Volley after their dust-up in the third minute.

The Premiership had supposedly ditched yellow cards for white and an obligatory 10 minutes in the sin-bin. This seemed to have escaped Smith, who bafflingly showed Joe Worsley, the Wasps' No. 8, white later in the half for a similar offence.

The referee later said that he had only been given the game by Twickenham last Monday and two days later told that there had been no change in the red- and yellow-card system. But the players and, more importantly, the supporters who have been charged admission prices higher than many Premiership football clubs, are being ill-served by the confusion on and off the pitch in the professional era.

All this colour confusion sparked some black humour among the coaches afterwards. "Presumably his wife's washing machine wasn't working properly," muttered Bath's Andy Robinson darkly at the referee's lack of white.

Wasps' director of rugby Nigel Melville also saw red. "We spend all summer talking about refereeing, and the Premiership says it wants English referees, and then an Irishman is given the match. The simple fact is there are no yellow cards."

The game itself was not black and white. Both sides tried to entertain but were let down by handling errors, poor decision-making and inconsistent refereeing. Smith ignored a blatant knock-on by Mike Catt when he fashioned a second-half try for Jeremy Guscott and then penalised Wasps' Kenny Logan for knocking-on when the ball struck his shin and the Scotland wing had a long but clear run to the line.

The result was settled by the unerring accuracy of the boot of Catt, who converted all his eight kicks for a haul of 21 points, and the more cohesive back play of Bath, for whom Guscott plundered two typically effortless tries. However, the sight of the England centre gingerly leaving the field a minute before time suggests his troublesome groin injury continues to plague his career.

Bath's young full-back Iain Balshaw also displayed the kind of running from broken play that will be invaluable to England's Commonwealth Games team in Kuala Lumpur.

Wasps, meanwhile, badly need the injured Lawrence Dallaglio, Alex King and Simon Shaw to return. All three may play in next Sunday's "friendly" against Swansea.

The Londoners, though, will be without the services of their Western Samoan hooker Trevor Leota for the rest of the month. Leota flies off today to the South Pacific for World Cup qualifying games against Fiji, Tonga and Australia.

A real pocket battleship, Leota hit Bath's Nathan Thomas amidships with a tackle that might have sunk a Dreadnaught. Apparently, he has been banned from tackling in Western Samoan training sessions. No one was making comments about his newly dyed ginger hair. Not to his face, anyway.

Guscott . . . effortless

SCORERS: Bath: Tries: Peters, Guscott 2. **Conversions:** Catt 3. **Penalties:** Catt 5.

Wasps: Tries: Logan, Leota, Worsley. **Penalties:** Rees 4.

Bath: Balshaw; Evans, De Glanville (capt), Guscott (Maggs, 79min), Adebayo; Catt, Hatley; Hilton (Yates, 68), Regan (Long, 30), Ubogu, Haag, Redman, Thomas, Sturnham, Peters.

Wasps: Lawsey, Beisar, Greenstock (Scrase, 48), Henderson, Logan, Rees; Friday (Gomarsall, 54); Molloy (Black, 54), Lozia, Green, Weedon (capt), Reed, Rollitt, Volley, Worsley.

Referee: B Smith (Ireland).

London Scottish 25 Sale 20

Exiles struggle with inept Sale

Michael Prestage

A WIN provided the Exiles with a perfect start to their campaign in rugby's top flight at the new home they share with Harlequins. However, the reality behind the scoreline was more worrying.

A crowd of only 1,250 does not bode well for their commercial future. And there are serious question marks about playing quality. Scottish will surely not come across another first-half display as inept and lacklustre as that of Sale, who did their best to scotch predictions that they could claim a top four position this season.

Yet Sale still scored three tries to the home side's one. They were reduced to 14 men for the last 10 minutes when John Devereux's trip saw him sin-binned. And they still managed to camp on the Scottish line with a winning score looking almost certain.

John Steele, the Exiles' director of rugby, is aware he is still three or four players short in key areas. "This win won't have proved a point to our critics, but it is a start."

A 20-point haul with the boot for Ian McAusland was enough to see the Exiles home. He settled the nerves with a second-minute penalty and his three second-half kicks kept Scottish in front.

The Exiles' only try came in the 27th minute and owed more to Sale's largesse than their own creativity. Jos Baxendell's pass went to ground, from where it was hacked on by Simon Binns, and the ball was eventually worked to wing Kenny Milligan for the score.

Scottish enjoyed a 16-point lead at the break but Sale were never going to be as anonymous in the second period. It took only six minutes for scrum-half Richard Smith to jink through, . .

and he added a second try from a ruck in the 55th minute. Ten minutes later, a break by Pat Sanderson split the home defence and his long pass found Matt Moore in acres of space on the right.

A Shane Howarth penalty brought Sale within two points with 10 minutes remaining but it was the closest they were to get. Scottish hung on desperately for a win, but they are likely to be rare events this season.

SCORERS: London Scottish: Try: Milligan. **Conversion:** McAusland. **Penalties:** McAusland 6. **Sale: Tries:** R Smith 2, Moore. **Conversions:** Howarth. **Penalty:** Howarth.

London Scottish: McAusland; Milligan, R Davies, Bonney (Eriksson, 64min), Sherman; Binns, Easterby; Johnstone, Cummins, Burnell, Jones, Walson (McAlarney, 54), Fenn, Holmes (T Davies, 66), Hunter (capt; Tarbuck, 64).

Sale: Howarth (capt), Moore, Davidson, Yates, O Cuinneagáin; Baxendell (Devereux, 68), R Smith; Bell (A Smith, 51), Diamond (Geraghty, 51), P Smith (Winstanley, 51), Raiwalui, Murphy (Baldwin, 53), Anglesea, Sanderson, Machacek.

Referee: S Lander (Liverpool)

Scottish champions humbled

THE Scottish champions Watsonians made a disastrous start to their title defence when they were beaten 50–11 by Melrose on Saturday.

But Watsonians coach Andrew Ker insisted his side, who have lost 11 players to the Scottish Rugby Union's super districts, would retain their crown. "It is easy to be despondent when you lose by as big a score as that, but I feel the potential is there," he said.

Rowing

Relaxed British four fastest to the final

Chris Dodd in Cologne

BRITAIN's four won the first round in defence of their world title with arrogant ease yesterday. James Cracknell, Steve Redgrave, Tim Foster and Matthew Pinsent cruised across the line at a low rate to qualify for Thursday's semi-finals.

The other heats were won by Italy and Australia in faster times forced by greater pressure. The women's double sculls Miriam Batten and Gillian Lindsay clocked the fastest time in qualifying for the semi-final. Their injury-prone six months now seems to be behind them. Dot Blackie and Catherine Bishop moved from fourth at halfway to second behind last year's world champions, Canada. Peter Haining, world lightweight singles champion from 1993-95, started his comeback with a terrific heat against the American James Martinez for the remaining semi-final spot. The Scot closed on Martinez in the final 500 metres but could not overhaul him. Martinez's time was the second fastest. The 1997 world silver medallist Michael Bänninger of Switzerland was the quickest. The open sculls Guin Batten and Greg Searle must also compete in repechage rounds tomorrow after each came second in heats. Batten to the German Katrin Rutschow and Searle to the New Zealander Rob Waddell. Both heat former world champions, and Searle's heat was the fastest of the four.

The men's lightweight eight were beaten by the only crew they have not met this season, the United States. A poor British performance handed the US their victory. The pair of Stephen Williams and Fred Scarlett and the double sculls Simon Goodbrand and Colin Greenaway both did well to finish third in heats. A futher 10 British crews start their competition today, including the men's and women's eights.

Sailing

Coutts banks himself victory off windy Sardinia

Bob Fisher

RUSSELL COUTTS clinched the Swan World Cup for Hans Eekhof's Innovision with a second place in the final race off Sardinia yesterday. The America's Cup winning skipper revelled in the 25–30 knot winds which prefaced a mistral and favoured the bigger boats in the 82-strong fleet.

It was a tough 32-mile race seemingly made for Richard Loftus's ketch Desperado, and on handicap she beat Innovision by half a minute.

Innovision did not win a single race but was consistently well placed in the five-race series to score 13 points, four better than the defending champion Loris Vaccari's Eurosia and 10 ahead of Noonmark VI.

Coutts was ably assisted by his America's Cup tactician Murray Jones as well as his key crew member, Andrew Taylor.

Ben Ainslie, the Olympic silver medallist, won the European Championship of the Laser class on Lake Neusidel in Austria, adding the title to the World Championship he won in Dubai earlier this year. He finished seven points clear of Sweden's Karl Suneson after winning the final race.

The Olympic gold medallist Robert Scheidt of Brazil, who has not beaten the British sailor in a regatta this year, was not in the top six.

In the Soling World Championship at Milwaukee, Andy Beadsworth's challenge faded in the last two races. He finished 14th overall.

The championship was won by Georgi Shaiduko of Russia with Sergei Pichugin of Ukraine in second.

Britain's Cordelia Eglin is the European Women's Match Racing Champion. She won all her qualifying matches and was declared the winner when the final round at Travemunde was abandoned due to lack of wind. Shirley Robertson was fifth.

Ice Hockey

The Knights lose their way

Vic Batchelder

LONDON Knights' first competitive game, away to the Nottingham Panthers in Saturday's opening Benson and Hedges Cup games, ended in a 6–2 loss for what is to be the capital's new Superleague team when they move into the London Arena next month.

After an evenly balanced opening period in which Jamie Leach's goal for the Panthers was equalled by Corey Lyons for Knights, the home side skated away in the final two sessions.

Ayr Scottish Eagles began the new season as they ended the last, by beating the Cardiff Devils — this time 5–4 at home. Eagles came from a goal behind three times in level the scores before going 4–3 ahead in the 47th minute through Sam Grolean. Although Cardiff's new signing Kory Mullin equalised five minutes later, Dennis Purdie's 55th minute goal was enough to clinch the points for the home team.

It was a similar story at Sheffield where the Steelers were behind three times against the Manchester Storm before losing 4–3 despite having levelled the scores at 3–3 eight minutes from time. Storm were not to be denied and Jeff Tomlinson's 54th minute goal proved decisive.

هكذا من الاصل

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G

lose their wall

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Meet Gordon Brown (he's a model).

Gordon came to see the GRC on July 27th. As you can see Gordon is a model (Sorry, the agency wouldn't let us print his picture!) and a very determined young man.

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Gordon is unusual. Because he was working, it took us 12 days to place him. Normally it takes less!!! But Gordon was joined last week by Gethyn, Seba, Mark, Siegrid, David, Sarah, and Iain, all of whom started their career in either recruitment, media or IT sales.

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Assisted Living Community

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Racing

Improving colt routs top-class field in Prix du Moulin at Longchamp. **Chris Hawkins** reports

Desert storms home for Loder

DESERT Prince, trained by David Loder, scored a great British triumph in the Croup One Emirates Prix du Moulin at Longchamp yesterday beating opposition from France, Ireland and Japan with a measure of authority.

Olivier Peslier rode Desert Prince and seized the initiative with a decisive move at halfway, eventually running home a comfortable three-lengths winner from the Criquette Head-trained Gold Away with Aidan O'Brien's Second Empire two lengths away third.

Seeking The Pearl, the Japanese filly who created something of a sensation when taking the Prix Maurice de Gheest at Deauville last month, tried to make all the running but found the mile beyond her and faded to finish fifth.

Desert Prince, winner of the Irish 2,000 Guineas, was secood to Dr Fong at Royal Ascot and will take on that rival again in the Queen Elizabeth II Stakes at Ascot on September 26.

"We reckon he's improved 10lb since he was second at *Royal Ascot," said Loder.* "After the QEII the plan is to go for the Breeders' Cup Mile and then retire him to the Irish National Stud."

At The Curragh, Edabiya kept the seven furlongs Moyglare Stud Stakes at home when running on strongly to capture the Croup One prize from Fear and Greed and Crystal Downs. Wannabe Graod, runner-up in the Lowther Stakes, finished fourth for Newmarket trainer Jeremy Noseda.

Edahiya, ridden by Johnny Murtagh and trained by John Oxx, is a half-sister by Rainbow Quest to Irish Oaks winner Ebadiyla and looks a top-class staying filly in the making.

Green Desert, sire of Desert Prince, scored a Group One weekend double when his son Tamarisk raced to a scintillating victory in the Stanley Leisure Sprint Trophy at Haydock on Saturday. The result threw the sprint championship into turmoil, although so emphatic was Tamarisk's triumph that when everything is totted up at the end of the season be may well be regarded as the most deserving of the crown.

Lochangel, winner of the Nunthorpe Stakes, Elnadim, winner of the July Cup, Bolshoi, *winner of the King's* Stand Stakes and Land Of Dreams, winner of the King George Stakes, were all routed.

Lochangel and Frankie Dettori looked the only threat two furlongs out, bnt the filly failed to stay and faded to leave the fast-finishing Bolshoi to take second.

Tamarisk began the season hy contesting the 2,000 Guineas at Newmarket, but despite a pedigree which suggested he would stay a mile his keen style of racing was all against him.

"We *tried to teach him to* stay as he doesn't have the the physique of a typical sprinter but It was no good," said trainer Roger Charlton. For Charlton this win came as a welcome boost. With only 14 winners he has been struggling with a reduced string of mostly moderate horses this season.

The big disappointment of Saturday's race was Elnadim, who had beaten Tamarisk into second in the July Cup at Newmarket but seemed to fall apart here at halfway.

John Dunlop, his trainer, *commented yesterday: "He's* obviously got a problem, but at the moment we don't know what it is. When he got to full stretch he lost his action and only raced for three furlongs. It wasn't the ground — that was perfect. It's all very mystifying and worrying."

Jack Berry will run Bolshoi in the Beeders' Cup Sprint at Churchill Downs, while Ian Balding will switch Lochangel back to five furlongs for the Prix de l'Abbaye de Longchamp.

Dunlop confirmed that Sadian has been supplemented at a *cost of £20,000 for* Saturday's Pertemps St Leger at Doncaster.

Godolphin still have four in the Leger — Sea Wave, Nedawi, Mutawwaj and Central Park — hut final running plans will not be made until later in the week.

Sea Wave is evens with Ladbrokes for the race, who then bet: 5–1 Nedawi, 8–1 Central Park, The Glow-Worm, 10–1 Sunshine Street, High And Low, Sadian, 14–1 Ta-Lim.

Irish challenger Sunshine Street, fourth in the Epsom Derby, will travel over tomorrow, hut will only run if the ground is good or faster on the day warned trainer Noel Meade.

Complete control . . . Tamarisk and Tim Sprake have the Stanley Leisure Sprint Cup firmly in their grasp at Haydock PHOTO: JULIAN HERBERT

Hamilton with guide to the form

	TONY PALEY	TOP FORM
2.15	Palace Green	Snap Cracker
2.45	Nifty Norman	La Doyenne
3.15	Stolen Tear	Penang Pearl
3.45	Wood Venture (nap)	Wird Venture
4.15	Celebration Cake	Westbridge Lad
4.45	Northern Accord (nb)	Spartan Royale (nap)

Straight 6f with pear-shaped right-handed loop course of 1m5f and 5f run-in. Stiff climb to winning post.
Going: Soft. ★ Denotes blinkers.
Draw: High numbers best up to 1m.
Seven day winners: None.
Blinkered first time: 2.15 Xsynna. Visored: 3.15 Ajjae.

2.15 HYNDFORD NURSERY HANDICAP 2YO
5f £3,453 (7 declared)

1 (4) 115246 Snap Cracker (12) (D) M Quinn 9–7 ..... F Norton ●90
2 (7) 113105 Sweet As A Nut (28) (CD) (BF) C Dwyer 9–2 ..... J Fortune 89
3 (2) 000305 Xsynna (24) (BF) S C Williams 8–11 ..... G Duffield ★ 97
4 (1) 032423 Palace Green (29) (D) D Chapman 8–7 ..... A Culhane 88
5 (6) 36406 So Willing (45) M Dods 8–4 ..... Dale Gibson 84
6 (5) 105201 Ladycake (11) (D) J Berry 8–0 ..... P Fessey 86
7 (3) 543032 Wind In Winnipeg (13) J Wainwright 7–10 ..... J McAuley (7) 86

Betting: 3–1 Palace Green, 4–1 Sweet As A Nut, 9–2 Xsynna, 11–2 Wind In Winnipeg, 13–2 Snap Cracker

FORM GUIDE - Snap Cracker: Held up, ridden 2f out, weakened inside final furlong, last of 6, 4l behind Angie Baby at Lingfield 5f sthc, Fm. Sweet As A Nut: Tracked leaders, effort halfway, soon ridden and edged left, soon weakened, 5th of 6, 7l behind Penny Moor at Beverley 5f hcap, Gd-Fm. Xsynna: Chased leaders, hung right approaching straight, outpaced final 2f, 5th of 8, 6l behind Illegal Sola at Catterick 5f hcap, Gd-Fm. Palace Green: With leader, hungpered 2f out, carried left over 1f out, not quicken, 3rd of 8, 2l behind Hadaya at Redcar 5f hcap, Gd-Fm. Wind In Winnipeg: Behind, headway over 1f out, ran on well towards finish, 2nd of 8, 3l behind Class Wan at Musselburgh 5f hcap, Gd.

2.45 TEAM KIER APPRENTICE SERIES HANDICAP
5f £2,528 (18 declared)

1 (1) 136200 Just Bob (9) (CD) S Kettlewell 9–9–10 ..... B FitzPatrick (3) 85
2 (15) 011500 Fokat (45) (C) M W Easterby 6–9–9 ..... B Fennessore (7) 85
3 (18) 000000 Nifty Norman (3) (D) J Berry 4–9–6 ..... P Bradley (5) 83
4 (2) 150033 Sortnoleva (24) J Berry 3–9–4 ..... P Fessey 84
5 (6) 045-00 Rhinefield Beauty (19) J Eustis 7–8–12 ..... R Fenwick (7) 82
6 (12) 600041 La Doyenne (9) (D) C Brown 4–8–9 ..... G Mullen ●90
7 (3) 060030 Sharp Gayle (18) (BF) I Semple 3–8–8 ..... B Winston 85
8 (13) 140055 Bill-Em (21) (CD) Miss L Perratt 4–8–7 ..... J McAuley (5) 87
9 (5) 130014 Superbrilliz (12) (CD) Miss L Siddall 5–8–7 ..... A McCarthy 86
10 (8) 000500 Fairy Domino (21) (CD) M Quinn 3–8–6 ..... Emily Joyce (7) 82
11 (4) 006308 Mercy The Monk (21) (CD) M Dods 7–8–4 ..... C Teague 84
12 (10) 300-00 Sunburn (11) (CD) J Calder 8–8–1 ..... P Goode (5) 79
13 (11) 060400 Pallium (11) (CD) D Nolan 10–8–0 ..... F Fitzsimons (5) 78
14 (7) 360060 Another Nightmare (26) (CD) D Barker 6–7–12 ..... Jenny Benson (7) 85
15 (17) 40050 Lady Benson (2) M Brisbourne 5–7–11 ..... C Cogan (5) 82
16 (16) 000440 Captain Carat (19) (D) D Chapman 7–7–11 ..... Kimberley Hart (3) 81
17 (14) 035230 Dona Filipa (24) (D) Miss L Siddall 5–7–11 ..... Darren Moffatt 83
18 (6) 0-0300 Leading Princess (11) (CD) Miss L Perratt 7–7–10 ..... P. Hanagan (7) ★ 80

Betting: 6–1 La Doyenne, 7–1 Superbrilliz, 8–1 Just Bob, Fokat, Sortnoleva, 10–1 Sharp Gayle, Bill-Em.

FORM GUIDE - Fokat: Raced far side, never dangerous, 11th of 15, 13l behind Indian Spark at Thirsk 6f hcap, Gd-Fm. Sortnoleva: Always chasing leaders, not quicken approaching final furlong, 3rd of 15, 2l behind Kamaseph at Southwell 6f hcap 0-65, AW. La Doyenne: Made all, clear halfway, held on well, won by 2l from Sholi, with Just Bob (gave 23lb) 10th of 15, 1lh 7l, Nifty Norman (gave 19lb) 11th, lm 7l, at Beverley 5f hcap, Gd-Fm. Superbrilliz: Always chasing leaders, one pace final furlong, 4th of 16, 2l behind Royal Duke at Carlisle 5f hcap, Gd-Sft. 2

3.15 E.B.F. PLUMB CENTER MAIDEN STAKES 2YO
1m 65yds £3,371 (8 declared)

1 (3) 6 Ajjae (27) I Semple 9–0 ..... S Lappin ★ 83
2 (4) Anniversary Day W Cunningham 9–0 ..... G Faux —
3 (2) 00 Decoded (14) J Eyre 9–0 ..... T Williams 78
4 (7) 50 Love Diamonds (46) M Johnston 9–0 ..... J Weaver 86
5 (5) 0 Romero (19) C Thornton 9–0 ..... Dean McKeown 82
6 (1) Dancer Doll J J O'Neill 8–9 ..... J Carroll —
7 (8) 555 Penang Pearl (54) (BF) M Quinn 8–9 ..... A Whelan ●90
8 (6) 3 Stolen Tear (30) M Johnston 8–9 ..... D Holland 89

Betting: 11–10 Stolen Tear, 9–4 Penang Pearl, 7–1 Dancer Doll, 8–1 Romero, 16–1 Love Diamonds.

FORM GUIDE - Ajjae: Soon outpaced and called off, last of 6, well behind Accelerating M Ryan 7f mdn auct, Sft. Love Diamonds: Unruly in stalls, close up until weakened quickly over 3f out, last of 8, 33l behind Mamaar at Ayr 7f mdn, Sft. Romero: Dwelt start, raced far side, never went pace, 9th of 17, 6l behind Victor of Night at Ripon 6f mdn, Gd-Fm. Penang Pearl: Towards rear, ridden 2f out, stayed on totally final furlong, 5th of 13, 30l behind Jack Goodman at Folkestone 7f mdn auct, Fm. Stolen Tear: Tracked leaders, effort 2f out, no extra, 3rd of 8, 7l behind Chalgrill at Redcar 7f mdn lfs, Gd-Fm.

3.45 WILLIAM HILL SCOTTISH TROPHY HANDICAP (SHOWCASE RACE)
1m 65yds £7,035 (10 declared)

1 (5) -03100 Rapier (38) (D) M Hammond 4–10–0 ..... B Holland 87
2 (6) 230015 Wood Venture (7) (D) S Woods 3–9–12 ..... G Duffield ●90
3 (10) 620-00 Solletia (8) (D) D Haydn Jones 4–9–8 ..... P Morton 84
4 (4) -40030 Jacmar (63) (C) Miss L Perratt 3–9–7 ..... J Weaver 83
5 (7) 036300 Tokihill (13) (CD) D Chapman 7–9–3 ..... A Culhane 85
6 (3) 51-300 Antarctic Storm (22) (CD) R Fahey 5–8–12 ..... B Houlton (3) 82
7 (2) -30446 Sturgeon (16) K Morgan 4–8–11 ..... P Fitzsimons (7) 87
8 (11) 024100 Future Prospect (16) (D) M Johnston 4–8–11 ..... J Carroll 85
9 (8) 426425 Moving Princess (7) Miss S Hall 3–8–4 ..... J McAuley (7) 88
10 (9) -05314 Trailblazer (8) C Thornton 4–8–0 ..... J Fanning 89

Betting: 7–2 Wood Venture, 4–1 Antarctic Storm, 9–2 Rapier, 5–1 Trailblazer, 10–1 Solletia, Future Prospect, Tokihill, 12–1 Sturgeon, Moving Princess, 16–1 Jacmar

FORM GUIDE - Rapier: Behind, headway on inside 3f out, ridden and beaten 2f out, 9th of 10, 19l behind Himnist at Newcastle 1m2f hcap, Gd. Wood Venture: Chased leaders, effort and ridden 2f out, kept on, never able to challenge, 5th of 10, 8l behind Almond Rock at Ripon 1m hcap, Gd. Solletia: Mid-division until weakened 3f out, eased final 2f, middle slipped, 11th of 12, 30l behind Scent Of Success at Windsor 1m 6f hcap, Gd-Fm. Tokihill: Held up, effort 2f out, never dangerous, 9th of 12, 13l behind Blooming Amazing at Pontefract 1m hcap, Gd-Fm. Antarctic Storm: Never nearer, 9th of 12, 5l behind Cantera at Lingfield 1m hcap, Gd-Fm. Future Prospect: Led over 7f out, headed over 5f out, weakened 3f out, 11th of 13, 24l behind Primary Colours at Wolverhampton 1m11f hcap, AW. Moving Princess: Held up, headway and bumped over 1f out, ran on inside final furlong, 5th of 13, 33l behind Elite Magic at Ripon 1m2f hcap, Gd. Trailblazer: Chased leaders, effort 4f out, one pace, 4th of 7, 43l behind Persian Fund at Ripon 1m2f hcap, Hvy.

4.15 M.C.G. STAFFING SERVICES SELLING STAKES
1m 1f £2,360 (11 declared)

1 (10) 631000 Birchwood Sun (13) (D) M Dods 8–9–9 ..... J Weaver ★ 83
2 (1) 354014 Celebration Cake (21) (CD) Miss L Perratt 6–9–9 ..... J Carroll 89
3 (6) 016646 Bobby Barnes (9) (CD) Evelyn Inglis 9–9–9 ..... Kim Tinkler 86
4 (7) (00600 Take Notice (51) M Ware 5–9–4 ..... S FitzPatrick (5) 83
5 (11) 010040 Waltz Time (21) I Semple 4–9–4 ..... D Lappin 87
6 (3) 300625 Westbridge Lad (9) (D) W Brisbourne 6–9–4 ..... A McCarthy (3) ●90
7 (8) 301-40 Blackburn Vendetta (9) (CD) M Ware 5–9–1 ..... J McAuley (7) 83
8 (5) 002045 Partite Sophie (21) M British 7–8–13 ..... D Mernagh (7) 85
9 (4) -63500 Cuicraggie (31) J Eyre 3–8–12 ..... A Culhane 84
10 (2) 063460 Priolette (12) J Fitzgerald 3–8–7 ..... J Fortune 83
11 (3) -54400 Tiggy Silvano (137) M Quinn 3–8–7 ..... A Whelan 78

Betting: 4–1 Celebration Cake, 5–1 Priolette, 6–1 Birchwood Sun, Westbridge Lad, 7–1 Cuicraggie, 8–1 Waltz Time.

FORM GUIDE - Birchwood Sun: Always outpaced and behind, 11th of 16, 8l behind King Uno at Pontefract 6f hcap, Gd-Fm. Celebration Cake: Headway for side halfway, every chance over 1f out, not quicken, 4th of 14, 4l behind Saratoga Red, with Waltz Time (rec 12lb) 13th, 1lh 31l, at Hamilton 1m11f sell hcap, Sft. Westbridge Lad: Held up and behind, headway 2f out, not reach leaders, 5th of 16, 6l behind Guesstimation M Nottingham 1m2f sell hcap, Gd-Fm. Cuicraggie: Always behind, called off, 17th of 18, well behind May King Mayhem at Hamlock 1m4f hcap, Gd-Sft. Priolette: Slowly into stride, outpaced and behind, never dangerous, 10th of 17, 17l behind Holy Smoke at Carlisle 1m 8f hcap, Gd-Sft.

4.45 STONEFIELD HANDICAP
1m 4f £2,612 (18 declared)

1 (5) 0-3021 Spartan Royale (32) P Mitchell 4–10–0 ..... B Shoulaire (5) ●90
2 (8) 012221 Ten Past Six (12) (CD) M Ware 6–9–11 ..... J Carroll ★ 89
3 (18) 011106 Urgent Reply (21) (CD) (BF) C Dwyer 5–9–11 ..... R Holland 86
4 (14) 000204 Bongo (29) C Dorman 4–9–10 ..... Dean McKeown 85
5 (15) 5-3615 Philinski (26) (CD) Miss L Perratt 6–9–5 ..... R Kennedy ★ 85
6 (17) 441346 Ikon Roberto (9) (C) J Goldie 4–9–5 ..... B Fenley (7) 86
7 (13) 024600 Salsoe Lad (11) I Semple 4–9–0 ..... R Winston (5) ★ 82
8 (12) 006500 Portuguese Lil (41) M Sowerby 5–8–13 ..... D Prasa 78
9 (11) 614442 Lord Advocate (26) (C) (D) D Nolan 10–8–13 ..... V Halliday ★ 87
10 (9) 310-05 Shark (9) K Morgan 5–8–13 ..... P Fitzsimons (7) 88
11 (11) 000-3 Oakbury (12) Miss L Siddall 6–8–12 ..... L Charnock 87
12 (3) 0-0463 Gulliver (14) Miss S Hall 3–8–12 ..... J McAuley (7) 86
13 (16) 005-01 Northern Accord (26) (C) Mrs J Ramsden 4–8–11 ..... J Fortune 87
14 (7) 606430 Dunphin (17) (D) W Musson 5–8–10 ..... Dale Gibson 84
15 (14) 003200 Kalifa's Cracker (12) M Quinn 3–8–10 ..... F Norton 82
16 (4) 000205 Cathmel King (12) M W Easterby 3–8–9 ..... T Lucas ★ 83
17 (3) -04126 Tuzzabile (61) (C) (BF) C Booth 4–8–0 ..... J Weaver 84
18 (2) /053-5 Fatalistic Liar (JAG) B Ellison 6–8–3 ..... T Williams 83

Betting: 13–2 Northern Accord, 7–1 Spartan Royale, 8–1 Ikon Roberto, Lord Advocate, 10–1 Ten Past Six, Urgent Reply, Bongo, Philinski, Salsoe Lad, Uuliana.

FORM GUIDE - Spartan Royale: Held up, headway 6f out, led well over 1f out, stayed on, won by 2l from Thawiq Ahdit, with Cathmel King (rec 14lb) 5th of 13, 1lh 6l, at Carlisle 2m11f mdn hcap, Gd-Sft. Ten Past Six: Tracked leader, led over 2f out, held on well, won by sthd from Cromer Pier, with Oakbury (rec 12lb) 3rd, 1ow 3l, at Carlisle 1m4f claim, Gd-Sft. Urgent Reply: Close up until ridden and weakened over 3f out, 8th of 7, 24l behind Norcroft Joy at Hamilton 1m4f app hcp, Sft. Ikon Roberto: Tracked leaders, every chance over 2f out, soon ridden and no extra, 6th of 13, 6l behind Our People M Redcar 1m3f hcap, Gd-Fm. Salsoe Lad: Behind from halfway, 11th of 12, 17l behind Silently M Musselburgh 1m6f hcap, Gd. Lord Advocate: Led until headed over 4f, kept on well, 2nd of 6, 3l behind Vola Frontiers, with Bongo (gave 19lb) 4th, 1lh 8l, Philinski (gave 11lb) 5th, 1lh 15l, M Hamilton 1m6f hcap, Gd-Sft.

Bath Jackpot card runners and riders

	TONY PALEY	TOP FORM
2.00	Groestaen Lady	Lady Beware
2.30	Amington Girl	My Legal Eagle
3.00	Joyeux Player	Joyeux Player
3.30	Key Academy	Key Academy
4.00	Wild Colonial Boy	Genetic
4.30	Loch Laird	Loch Laird (nb)
5.00	Cauda Equina	Sea-Deer

Left-handed track of just over 1½m with 4f run-in which rises all the way to the finish. Separate extension for races over 5f & 5f 161yds.
Going: Good. ★ Denotes blinkers.
Draw: Low numbers favoured.
Seven day winners: 3.00 Over The Counter; 5.00 Cauda Equina.
Blinkered first time: 2.30 Amington Girl; 5.00 Longwick Lad
Visored: 2.30 Sumtowa, 5.00 Blundell Lane.
Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. J.Jumps.

2.00 BANES MAIDEN AUCTION FILLIES' STAKES 2YO
5f £2,814 (15 declared)

101 (10) 0 La Soeur d'Albert (12) J Berry 8–7 ..... B Darley 78
102 (9) 0060 Marsale Girl (46) J Arnold 8–7 ..... C Lowther 78
103 (5) 04505 Lady Bevere (28) (BF) M Channon 8–6 ..... T Quinn ●90
104 (15) 0 Sale Church (21) Lord Huntingdon 8–6 ..... M Roberts 77
105 (7) 00 Top Tara (41) C Wall 8–5 ..... B Rand 83
106 (6) 0005 Brockton Saga (19) B Meehan 8–4 ..... C Rutter 86
107 (1) 60 Space Babe (33) R Hannon 8–4 ..... Dane O'Neill 86
108 (4) 62464 Zola Power (32) G L Moore 8–4 ..... B Whitworth 88
109 (3) 24 Hanibal Lady (151) (BF) P Evans 8–2 ..... J F Egan 87
110 (8) 0006B0 Sister Patricia (27) Mrs P Dutfield 8–2 ..... S Drowne 85
111 (2) 00 Broughtons Song (6) M Musson 8–1 ..... P Robinson 78
112 (12) F Groestaen Lady (25) B Palling 8–1 ..... T Sprake —
113 (14) L'Agneau Noir W Muir 8–1 ..... Martin Dwyer —
114 (11) 500030 True Love Waya (11) M G M Turner 8–1 ..... J Quinn 84
115 (13) 00 Little Greenkins (88) W G M Turner 8–0 ..... A Nicholls (5) 81

Betting: 11–2 Lady Bevere, 8–1 La Soeur D'albert, Zola Power, 7–1 Hanibal Lady, 8–1 Brockton Saga, Space Babe, Groestaen Lady.

KEEPING TRACK
0891 222 +

	COMMENTARY	RESULTS
BATH	771	781
HAMILTON	772	782

ALL COURSES COMMENTARY 0891 222 780
ALL COURSES RESULTS 0891 222 790
CALLS COST 50P PER MIN AT ALL TIMES. TIS PLC, AVALON HOUSE, LONDON EC2A 4PJ.
The Guardian INTERACTIVE

2.30 AUTUMN SELLING HANDICAP
1m £2,724 (18 declared)

201 (10) 600- Madame Maud (314) P Hedger 4–9–10 ..... T Quinn 84
202 (1) 030041 My Legal Eagle (28) J Hills 4–9–9 ..... P Clarke (7) ●90
203 (6) 600000 In The Stocks (27) L Cottrell 4–9–7 ..... B Fallon 78
204 (3) 05006 Classic Cruiser (17) Pat Mitchell 4–9–1 ..... M Fenton 86
205 (7) 205000 Africanado (9) (D) R Hodges 4–9–0 ..... S Cochrane 83
206 (18) 540440 Sumtowa (13) D Haydn Jones 3–9–5 ..... A Mackay ★ 86
207 (8) 00000 Bold Sarah (31) R Hollinshead 4–9–3 ..... B Sanders 78
208 (4) 505 Miss Paradise (17) B Palling 3–9–3 ..... T Sprake 83
209 (13) 030000 Sharp Monkey (28) (D) Mrs N Macauley 3–9–2 ..... P McCabe ★ 83
210 (17) 000006 Junction City (22) I Balding 4–9–2 ..... Martin Dwyer ★ 84
211 (15) 240040 Marlama (3) R Whitaker 3–9–1 ..... A Nicholls (5) 86
212 (16) 332140 Amington Girl (28) (D) P Evans 3–9–0 ..... J F Egan ★ 89
213 (12) -00060 Sharp Fellow (27) I Balding 3–9–0 ..... B Walsworth ★ 88
214 (5) 220044 Spring Dancer (22) C Allen 5–8–13 ..... B Carlisle 86
215 (14) 0-260 Crystal Craze (28) C Dyer 3–8–13 ..... B Sweeney 85
216 (11) 00-050 Supersalesman (27) D Elsworth 4–8–13 ..... R Pollard (5) 82
217 (9) 0-0000 Blind Tiger (19) Bob Jones 3–8–13 ..... D Biggs 78
218 (2) 054-00 Cosa Rosa (12) G McCourt 3–9–12 ..... R Vezley 78

Betting: 5–1 My Legal Eagle, 6–1 Amington Girl, 7–1 Africanado, 8–1 Marlama, Spring Dancer, 10–1 Sumtowa, Sharp Monkey, Junction City, Sharp Fellow.

3.00 BATHFORD NURSERY HANDICAP 2YO
1m £6,018 (16 declared)

301 (11) 332145 Diable Dancer (23) B Millman 9–7 ..... B Cullen (5) 90
302 (13) 41 Joyeux Player (31) J Dunlop 9–3 ..... K Fallon ●97
303 (15) 212006 Ballwick (16) B Smart 9–1 ..... J Reid 87
304 (12) 005035 September Harvest (10) B Meehan 8–11 ..... M Tebbutt 88
305 (4) 300203 Admiral (10) M Channon 8–9 ..... S Sanders 87
306 (8) 416 Kingston Venture (11) (BF) W G M Turner 8–0 ..... D McGaffin (7) 85
307 (14) 0413 Gino's Spirits (25) C British 8–8 ..... P Robinson 86
308 (5) 24021 Lady Mask (40) D French Davis 8–7 ..... K Darley 85
309 (6) 514356 By The Elms (10) P Walwyn 8–6 ..... T Quinn 84
310 (7) 535 Mr Solitaire (9) P Cole 8–6 ..... J Weaver 83
311 (1) 55543 Bitter Sweet (12) D Elsworth 8–5 ..... M Pollard (5) 87
312 (10) 014251 Cosmic Jack (16) (C) M Pipe 8–5 ..... M Roberts 86
313 (10) 440001 Bunningham Breeze (10) K Ivory 8–4 ..... Martin Dwyer 87
314 (3) 026212 Ace Of Trumps (10) (BF) W Haggas 7–12 ..... J Quinn 88
315 (9) 414541 Over The Counter (7) (Bb ex) (D) M Channon 7–12 ..... A Mackay 86
316 (3) 006 Alright Pops (107) H Dickin 7–10 ..... J Lowe 83

Betting: 13–2 Joyeux Player, 8–1 September Harvest, Gino's Spirits, Lady Mask, Cosmic Jack, 10–1 Diable Dancer, Ballwick, Admiral, Bunningham Breeze, Over The Counter.

3.30 AVON MAIDEN STAKES
1m 3f 144yds £3,560 (12 declared)

401 (3) Billy Moonshine (1188) G L Moore 6–9–7 ..... N Bycroft (7) —
402 (12) 64 Aston Villa (26) D Elsworth 4–9–2 ..... N Pollard (5) 83
403 (6) 3 Ballet (78) W Haggas 3–8–12 ..... S Cochrane 87
404 (7) 2440 Dual Island (10) J Gosden 3–8–12 ..... B Drowne 84
405 (2) Master Rex E Wheeler 3–8–12 ..... A Daly (3) —
406 (1) 0-3 Nuvolino (25) B Millman 3–8–12 ..... T Sprake 88
407 (10) 03000 Pacifyre (38) W Muir 3–8–12 ..... J Reid 84
408 (5) 00 Crow's Nest (17) Lord Huntingdon 3–8–7 ..... M Roberts 82
409 (4) 22 Key Academy (28) (BF) C Hodges 3–8–7 ..... T Quinn ●88
410 (9) Museuva M Tregoning 3–8–7 ..... B Hills —
411 (8) 4 Silver Caster (7) P Harris 3–8–7 ..... G Lowther 86
412 (11) 04 Winter Pageant (81) L Cumani 3–8–7 ..... R Ffrench 87

Betting: 7–2 Key Academy, 9–2 Winter Pageant, 5–1 Silver Caster, 6–1 Ballet, 8–1 Dual Island, 12–1 Museuva, 14–1 Aston Villa, Nuvolino, Pacifyre, Crow's Nest.

4.00 LETHEBY & CHRISTOPHER MAIDEN HANDICAP
1m 5f £3,165 (15 declared)

501 (13) 03-032 Drift (5) D Cantillon 4–9–13 ..... B Pollard (5) 86
502 (8) 432025 Prelude (38) M Haynes 4–9–12 ..... M Connolly (7) 88
503 (1) 452536 Saintly Thoughts (34) G Lewis 3–9–10 ..... Paul Eddery 86
504 (11) 235303 Peppers (28) K Burke 5–9–10 ..... B Cullen (5) 88
505 (5) 550436 Fields Of Omagh (17) (BF) I Balding 3–9–9 ..... S Whitworth (7) 87
506 (9) 0-6060 Pallas Pilot (7) M Muir 3–9–9 ..... J Reid 84
507 (10) 08024 Genetic (33) P Makin 3–9–5 ..... S Cochrane ●90
508 (15) 0003 Forbes Park (28) C Horgan 3–9–4 ..... B Drowne 88
509 (7) 030622 Snow Partridge (17) (BF) P Cole 4–9–4 ..... T Quinn 89
510 (2) 360222 Wild Colonial Boy (28) G Hanson 3–9–4 ..... Dane O'Neill 88
511 (3) -00205 Mandolin (52) D Chappell 3–8–2 ..... A McGlone ★ 80
512 (12) 600 April Treasure (32) J Spearing 3–8–1 ..... A Mackay 82
513 (14) -00605 High On Life (22) J Akehurst 4–9–1 ..... A Clark ★ 85
514 (4) -54220 Chocolate Box (24) (BF) M Haggas 3–8–1 ..... S Sanders 86
515 (3) 243230 San Glennora Melody (14) B Ingram 4–8–13 ..... B Raville (5) 83

Betting: 5–1 Wild Colonial Boy, 8–1 Snow Partridge, 7–1 Genetic, 8–1 Drift, Peppers, Fields Of Omagh, 10–1 Prelude, Saintly Thoughts, Chocolate Box.

4.30 SHERSTON MAIDEN STAKES 3YO
5f 161yds £3,631 (16 declared)

601 (5) 344-00 Aspend (115) Mrs L Stubbs 9–0 ..... R Cochrane 77
602 (6) Cymmerland G Groves B Palling 9–0 ..... T Sprake —
603 (4) 225 Dubarnian (19) B Meehan 9–0 ..... M Tebbutt (3) 90
604 (14) 0 Gallant Fellow (46) C Egerton 9–0 ..... Dane O'Neill 79
605 (13) 223-32 Loch Laird (11) (BF) M Madgwick 9–0 ..... J Quinn ●88
606 (12) 33 Mickles (82) L Cottrell 9–0 ..... A Clark 86
607 (16) 0 Pursuit Of Gold (61) A Kelleway 9–0 ..... A Mackay 85
608 (10) 0-5 Red Skiff (13) B Ellworth 9–0 ..... A Daly (3) 88
609 (9) 400003 Second Sun (11) J Bridger 9–0 ..... G Bardwell 84
610 (11) 3302 Tuscan Dream (22) J Berry 9–0 ..... B Darley 86
611 (3) 0- Yellowhead (404) G L Moore 9–0 ..... Paul Eddery 77
612 (1) 333003 Dodo (18) D Elsworth 8–9 ..... N Pollard (5) ★ 84
613 (15) 00- Doodle (302) W Haggas 8–9 ..... Jo Hansen (5) 77
614 (7) -50423 Emmajean (28) M G M Turner 8–9 ..... D McGaffin (7) 86
615 (2) 630- Lady Alnitha (338) R Hodges 8–9 ..... S Drowne 78
616 (8) 0 Waltzing Matilda (9) C British 9–0 ..... P Robinson 78

Betting: 7–2 Tuscan Dream, 5–1 Loch Laird, 6–1 Mickles, 13–2 Red Skiff, 7–1 Dodo, 8–1 Emmajean.

5.00 LEVY BOARD SEVENTH RACE HANDICAP
5f 161yds £3,810 (19 declared)

1 (12) 036200 Hand To Figure (9) (CD) R Hodges 12–9–12 ..... B Drowne 84
2 (1) 00-080 Spencder (31) (CD) P Harris 9–9–8 ..... C Lowther 83
3 (8) 220000 White Early (7) B Millman 5–9–6 ..... M Roberts 88
4 (17) 221253 Midkiffs (10) (BF) R Guest 3–9–6 ..... N Pollard (5) 88
5 (2) 100000 Blundell Lane (8) (D) A Jarvis 3–9–6 ..... B Geary (7) ★ 79
6 (16) 0100 Night Spirit (9) (D) C Brittain 3–9–7 ..... P Robinson 78
7 (3) 301043 Sea-Deer (16) (D) C Dwyer 9–9–5 ..... R Clark ●90
8 (14) 301621 Cauda Equina (4) (7th ex) (CD) M Channon 4–9–5 ..... T Quinn 88
9 (11) 501204 Fairy Prince (8) (D) Mrs A King 5–9–4 ..... J Quinn 86
10 (13) 004000 Conspiracy (8) M Blanshard 3–9–4 ..... Dane O'Neill 80
11 (7) 003065 Sauveur (12) (D) Mrs N Macauley 6–9–1 ..... P McCabe ★ 85
12 (13) 660050 Sir Joey (18) (D) P Murphy 9–8–13 ..... J F Egan 84
13 (15) 500600 Longwick Lad (10) (CD) M Muir 5–8–13 ..... J Reid ★ 88
14 (4) 36 501 Ashkelon's Bandit (42) J Berry 3–8–11 ..... B Darley 87
15 (18) 634050 Beyond Calculation (33) (D) J Bradley 4–8–11 ..... R Ffrench 83
16 (6) -00500 Silversands (37) S Dow 3–8–9 ..... S Sanders 82
17 (9) 330055 Tudor Counsellor (34) (CD) R Hodges 7–8–8 ..... R Cochrane 84
18 (10) 200443 Infinesh (12) (C) (D) D Haydn Jones 6–8–8 ..... N Callan (5) 86
19 (5) 160-40 Alhamdu (183) J Pearce 4–8–2 ..... A Polli (5) 84

Betting: 7–1 Cauda Equina, 8–1 Sea-Deer, Fairy Prince, Ashkelon's Bandit, 10–1 Blundell Lane, Infinesh.

Golf

Striving Struver defies the pressure

David Davies in Crans-sur-Sierre sees a cool German stake a Ryder claim

SVEN STRUVER hirdled the last at Crans-sur-Sierre in regular play yesterday and did it again in a sudden-death play-off with Patrik Sjoland to win the European Masters.

The German thus became the first leader of Europe's Ryder Cup points list, having won £133,330, a good start towards the £400,000 or so he will need to make the team next September in Brookline.

Sjoland also made strides in that direction with second-place money of £88,890. Darren Clarke's third place earned him £50,070.

Struver's final five-under-par 66 for a 21-under total of 263 was, remarkably considering the pressure, bogey-free. He had given his Swedish rival a four-stroke lead overnight, caught him on the short 16th, went one behind when Sjoland birdied the 17th but hit his second at the last *to four feet.*

The two men went back to the 18th and, after Sjoland had lipped out from 11 feet, Struver holed from 10 for his third European Tour win.

Clarke took a horrible double-bogey five at the short 3rd and was thereafter never quite at the races, even though he finished with four birdies in five holes. It was not quite enough to overtake England's Lee Westwood at the top of the Volvo rankings.

The Ulsterman has finished second, second, fourth and third in four of his last five events and is feeling frustrated. "Bollocks to finishing third," he said afterwards. "It feels like every week at the moment. I want to win." He is only £5,500 behind Westwood — £603,345 plays £597,847 — but he wants nothing more than to overtake his friend and stablemate.

Westwood, whose closing 68 left him on 12-under and tied for 12th, has a word for his game at present — "crap".

"That was worse than drivel," he said of his round. "I seem to have lost the middle of the club face. I now know how my Dad feels all the time!"

The 18th at Crans is only *377 yards long* — the sort of hole that good players might expect to birdie, say, twice during a tournament — and Colin Montgomerie's first two rounds indicated that sort of average. But he took four in the first round, three in the second and then finished with two double-bogey sixes.

Those four, maybe five, dropped shots were hugely expensive both in terms of cash-in-hand and, of course, Ryder Cup points. They cost Montgomerie a share of fourth place instead of joint 12th and therefore around £23,980.

The money may not be important, but the mistakes must have burt his pride.

On Saturday Montgomerie, winner of the Volvo rankings these last five years hut now struggling in third place behind Westwood and Clarke, took the silliest of sixes from the middle of the 18th fairway. He contrived to hit a 126-yard wedge some 140 yards, hitting a balustrade in the stand at the back of the green before careering out of bounds.

Yesterday he found a hunker off the tee but, with the same yardage as Saturday and therefore easily able to reach the green, he topped his recovery into the rough. He was able to punch a shot out on to the putting surface hut then, after charging the first one, missed the second. A par would have given him 29 home, plus considerable satisfaction, especially after missing the cut in his previous two events.

As it was, the Scot made a surly exit. Some of his thoughts on a game suf

PARTING SHOT

One woman and a dog . . . a pair of spectators take in the start of the women's football season at Marine FC in Rossett Park, Crosby, where the Premier League champions Everton began their title defence with a goalless draw against the visitors Croydon

Photograph by Christopher Thomond

Tongues must wag or heads must roll now

SCREEN BREAK

Martin Kelner

IT WAS a frustrating start to England's European Championship campaign, especially since we had been led to expect so much more. In my view it is time for heads to roll. Hodgson must go.

There really is no point in Sky continuing to pay the Blackburn manager for his expertise in international football when he refuses to say anything that might be perceived as criticism of fellow professionals.

Invited to give his views on the tackle which led to Ince's second booking, which Richard Keys suggested might be considered at least foolhardy, Hodgson reacted as if he'd been asked to partition the former Yugoslavia.

After an interminable pause he said: "You put me in a vewy vewy difficult position, because I don't want to cwiticise him."

In which case, you might be entitled to ask, what exactly was he doing there?

Even on the subject of the post-match vandalism by England fans, usually safe ground for soccer folk since they can ascribe the smell of stinking fish to another source, Hodgson was reluctant to come off the fence. His ludicrous view seemed to be that "the media is educating people to behave like this by making every defeat a crime."

Just because Hodgson sounds a little like Roy Jenkins, he seems to believe it is his role to talk for the modewates, to be the SDP of soccer analysts.

No such problems, I am happy to report, over on ITV where the militant tendency is alive and well. The Ince tackle was described by Dennis Skinner, sorry Ron Atkinson, as "stupid".

"We've completely gone brain dead," said Big Ron, giving professional credence to what we at home had already begun to suspect. "That's bread and butter," was his view of the cross which led to Sweden's second goal.

Atkinson is the ideal foil for ITV's new top man Clive Tyldesley in that he has the force of personality to shut Tyldesley up occasionally. As is the fashion nowadays, especially in the case of recent recruits from radio, Tyldesley seems determined to fill every second, as if in fear that a moment's silence might cause us to retuns.

> Just because he sounds a little like Roy Jenkins, he seems to be the SDP of soccer analysts

Tyldesley is improving with match practice, though, and despite the fact that he's not quite as quick as Martin Tyler to spot things, like the referee's reaction to Ince's second wild tackle, he and Ron are turning into a very acceptable double act.

ITV's analysts, Terry Venables and John Barnes, were also more prepared than Hodgson to discuss Glenn Hoddle's adherence to the methods of Eileen Drewery, and the effect on his players of what is now known simply as "the book" (that's Glenn's scribblings, not those of the other Big G).

While abstaining from any particular criticism of Hoddle, Venables suggested, with what looked to me suspiciously like a smug smile, that the manager might need to wear a hard hat for a week or two.

Sky's uncharacteristic timidity in the face of what they called — possibly in deference to Hoddle himself — "the Eileen Drewery situation" might have had something to do with the exclusive interview that Sky News ran on Saturday morning with Drewery, or "England's Natural Born Healer" as the programme called her.

Clearly, objectivity was not part of Sky's brief. Any thought that this so-called "News Extra" might examine the validity of faith-healing in the context of the England football team was quickly dispelled by the sight of reporter Sharon Doughty smilingly receiving the benefit of the Drewery hands.

Eileen was given the opportunity by her friend Sharon to "set the record straight", that is to rubbish some of the newspaper stories about her. She did not, as some reports had suggested, receive a large sum of money for her services, nor was she a force of evil as someone had apparently written. "What is evil?" asked Eileen. "Evil is a very destructive force, and that is what evil is."

The Wisdom of Eileen would be a very short book indeed, and it didn't help that she demonstrated her inner serenity by delivering her platitudes in a calm even Essex monotone that could have the island of Ibiza fast asleep in bed by 10.30. She has also picked up little nuggets of managerspeak from Glenn. "At the end of the day, you just have to look at the results," she said at ons point.

My goodness, the sparks must fly when she and Glenn get together and put on a couple of Kenny G albums. They should invite Roy Hodgson round and make a real party of it.

If you are looking for something a little more animated, Sky's Super League continues to deliver in spades.

The commentator Eddie Hemmings's best line last week came as Iestyn Harris of Leeds beat St Helens's Anthony Sullivan in a thrilling chase to the try-line. "Harris," said Eddie, "just had too many legs for him."

Weekend results

RUGBY UNION

ALLIED DUNBAR PREMIERSHIP

One			
Bath	36	Wasps	27
Gloucester	29	London Irish	22
Leicester	49	Harlequins	15
London Scottish	25	Sale	20
Richmond	41	Newcastle	29
Saracens	34	Northampton	7

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leicester	1	1	0	0	49	15	2
Saracens	1	1	0	0	34	7	2
Richmond	1	1	0	0	41	29	2
Bath	1	1	0	0	36	27	2
Gloucester	1	1	0	0	29	22	2
L Scottish	1	1	0	0	25	20	2
Bedford	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
W Hartlepool	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sale	1	0	0	1	20	25	0
L Irish	1	0	0	1	22	29	0
Wasps	1	0	0	1	27	36	0
Newcastle	1	0	0	1	29	41	0
Northampton	1	0	0	1	7	34	0
Harlequins	1	0	0	1	15	49	0

Two			
Exeter	15	Bristol	22
Fylde	8	Orrell	20
Moseley	32	Wakefield	33
Rugby	18	Blackheath	12
Waterloo	22	Rotherham	7
Worcester	22	Coventry	7

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Waterloo	1	1	0	0	22	7	3
Worcester	1	1	0	0	22	7	2
Orrell	1	1	0	0	20	8	2
Bristol	1	1	0	0	22	15	3
Rugby	1	1	0	0	18	12	2
L Welsh	1	1	0	0	20	18	3
Wakefield	1	1	0	0	33	32	3
Moseley	1	0	0	1	32	33	0
Leeds	1	0	0	1	18	20	0
Blackheath	1	0	0	1	12	18	0
Exeter	1	0	0	1	15	22	0
Fylde	1	0	0	1	8	20	0
Coventry	1	0	0	1	7	22	0
Rotherham	1	0	0	1	7	22	0

WELSH NATIONAL LEAGUE

First Division			
Aberavon	5	Newport	47
Ebbw Vale	23	Bridgend	20
Neath	18	Caerphilly	21
Pontypridd	22	Llanelli	15

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Pontypridd	2	2	0	0	45	18	5
Bridgend	2	1	0	1	66	33	5
Neath	2	1	0	1	54	29	5
Newport	2	1	0	1	55	41	5
Llanelli	2	1	0	1	60	40	5
Ebbw Vale	2	1	0	1	41	55	5
Caerphilly	2	1	0	1	34	41	5
Aberavon	2	0	0	2	15	92	0

ANGLO-WELSH FRIENDLIES

Bedford	10	Cardiff	27
Swansea	32	West Hartlepool	28

TENNENT'S PREMIERSHIP

Division One			
Currie	37	Boroughmuir	24
Glasgow Hawks	13	Heriots FP	31
Jed-Forest	31	West bt Scotland	16
Stirling County	15	Hawick	19
Watsonians	11	Melrose	50

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Melrose	1	1	0	0	50	11	3
Heriots FP	1	1	0	0	31	13	3
Currie	1	1	0	0	37	24	3
Jed-Forest	1	1	0	0	31	16	4
Hawick	1	1	0	0	19	16	4
Stirling Cty	1	0	0	1	15	19	1
Boroughmuir	1	0	0	1	24	37	1
W of Scotland	1	0	0	1	16	31	0
Glasgow H	1	0	0	1	13	31	0
Watsonians	1	0	0	1	11	50	0

CURRIE CUP: Cape Town: Western Province 25 Boland 39. Port Elizabeth: Eastern Province 20 Mpumalanga Pumas 17. Klerksdorp: Griqualand West 36 Golden Lions 18. Pretoria: Blue Bulls 38 Border 21. Durban: Natal 57 Northern Free State 3. Bloemfontein: Free State 69 North West 25. George: SW Districts 21 Gauteng Falcons 21. Leading standings: 1 Blue Bulls (P6-Pts35); 2 Griqualand West (6-30); 3 Free State (6-27).

RUGBY LEAGUE

SUPER LEAGUE

Castleford (10) 30
T: Davis 2, Orr 2, M Smith
G: Orr 3, Davis 2
Salford (0) 13
T: Hulme, Waring
G: Blakeley 2 Att: 4,865

Halifax (17) 33
T: Bloem 3, Bouveng 2, Harrison, Powell
G: Pearson 2
DG: Clinch
Sheffield (2) 16
T: Carr, Morganson, Senior
G: Aston, Wood Att: 4,828

London (16) 34
T: Air 3, Gill, Ryan, Timu
G: Tollett 5
Bradford (8) 5
T: Bradley
G: McNamara 2 Att: 5,000

Warrington (18) 36
T: Egan 2, Briers, Farrar, Forster, McCurrie, Pechey
G: Briers 4
Huddersfield (2) 8
T: Cheetham
G: Goulding 2 Att: 4,908

Wigan (24) 69
T: Gilmour 2, Paul 2, Robinson 2, Bell, Connolly, Farrell, P Johnson, Radlinski, Smith
G: Farrell 5
Hull (2) 6
T: Saru
G: Prescott Att: 7,930

FIRST DIVISION GRAND FINAL

Play-offs

Featherstone (14) 22
T: Lowe 3, Pratt
G: Fallins 2
DG: Fallins 2
Swinton (5) 12
T: Casey, Hulme
G: Gartland 2
Att: 1,770

Hull S R (11) 18
T: Danby, Hill
G: M Fletcher 4
DG: Charlton, Gene
Dewsbury (2) 2
G: Eaton
Att: 2,640

SECOND DIVISION

Batley (14) 28
T: W Freeman, A Gibbons, Lawford, Poynter
G: Lawford 3, Smith 2
Barrow (4) 22
T: Atkinson, Burns, Manihera, Marwood
G: Atkinson 3

Lancashire Lynx (12) 22
T: Abram 3, Donno
G: P Jones 3
Batley (8) 31
T: Dyson 2, Simpson 2, Gleadhill
G: Price 5
DG: Cass
Att: 1,079

Oldham (4) 8
T: Jackman
G: Quinlan 2
York (8) 38
T: Austerfield 2, Godfrey 2, A Preston, Ramsden, Strange
G: Booth 4, Cain
Att: 1,440

Workington (4) 20
T: Close, Hanare, Keenan, Stalker
G: Brandwaite 2
Doncaster (8) 12
T: Alex Goulbourne, Allie Goulbourne
G: Conway 2
Att: 500

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL LEAGUE: Elimination final: Melbourne 24 Canberra 10. Qualifying final: Newcastle 15 Sydney City 26.

GOLF

EUROPEAN MASTERS (Crans-Sur-Sierre, Switz): Final round (GB/Ire unless stated):

	263
S Struver (Ger)	66 63 65 69
P Sjoland (Swe)	66 66 62 70

(Struver won at 1st play-off hole)

	265
G Clarke	64 68 66 67
	268
C Rocca (It)	67 66 67 68
	269
A Cejka (Ger)	70 68 67 64
G Brand Jnr	66 66 66 67
	270
M A Jimenez (Sp)	67 69 70 64
J Van de Velde (Fr)	67 68 72 63
D Karlsson (Swe)	69 66 68 69
M Gronberg (Swe)	66 66 64 69
	271
S Henderson	68 66 66 69
	272
C Montgomerie	70 66 69 67
S Torrance	67 68 70 67
L Westwood	70 66 66 69
	273
G Clifford	73 66 67 67
D Jacquelin (Fr)	70 67 68 68
P Lonard (Aus)	70 68 67 70
	274
S Grappasonni (It)	66 71 68 70
C Bovet (Switz)	66 64 70 72
	275
M Rosin (It)	71 69 70 65
M Lanner (Swe)	70 67 70 68
S Romero (Arg)	68 71 70 68
P Fulke (Swe)	66 71 67 69
S Gooden (SA)	69 70 67 69
S Luna (Sp)	69 67 69 70
	276
M Hallberg (Swe)	69 71 70 67
B Chapman	72 68 69 67
P Baker	69 67 72 68
M Roe	67 70 67 72
	277
S Ballesteros (Sp)	70 70 70 67
J Rivero (Sp)	68 68 73 68
T Bjorn (Den)	69 70 68 70
G Orr	68 70 68 71
J Sandelin (Swe)	68 72 65 71
F Tarnaud (Fr)	71 66 66 72
P Harrington	70 68 65 72
	278
A Cabrera (Arg)	71 68 70 69
M Parry (Fr)	72 67 69 70
I Olazar (Sp)	71 69 68 70
M Bonell	70 69 68 73
	279
B Coles	68 71 73 67
F Cam (Sp)	68 72 69 70
M Mackenzie	70 69 69 71
P Senior (Aus)	72 68 68 71
P Hanssend (Nor)	68 71 70 72
Z Liao-tsai (China)	69 70 68 72
	280
G Nicklaus (US)	70 68 73 68
J Payne	68 71 71 69
P Price	68 70 71 71
A Sherborne	67 69 73 72
G Owen	70 66 68 72
	281
A Beal	68 70 75 67
B Lossey (Aus)	74 68 72 69
J Lomas	69 71 71 70
D Smyth (NZ)	71 68 71 71
J Spence	70 68 70 72
J M Olazabal (Sp)	70 70 69 73
	282
M Clark	70 69 71 72
	283
M Dredge	71 67 72 73
R Weeseis (SA)	69 72 70 72
	284
M Woodland	70 70 73 69
B Tomori (Japan)	69 68 73 74
M Canning (US)	71 68 73 74
G Evans	70 69 70 70
	286
A Clapp	73 67 73 72
	288
J Singh (Ind)	71 69 73 73
S Lane	72 68 74 74
	293
A Wall	71 69 72 82

GREATER MILWAUKEE OPEN: Third round scores (US unless stated):

	197
J Sluman	66 66 69
C Perry	66 62 67
	198
S Stricker	66 63 67
	199
N Henke	70 62 67
M Calcavecchia	68 64 69
	200
J Maginnes	67 65 68
	201
J Lewis	74 63 64
S Wentworth	68 65 68
D Ogrin	68 64 68
M Carnevale	66 65 69
	202
T Armour	68 66 68
D Barron	67 67 68
G Hjerstedt (Swe)	68 67 69
	203
D Andrade	74 64 65
B Kamm	70 66 67
F Funk	69 70 68
	204
S Simmer	71 68 67
T Byron	67 66 69
B Sutherland	68 68 68
L Roberts	62 70 72

OPEN DE STRASBOURG (La Wantzenau): Leading final round scores (GB/Ire unless stated):

	276
J Sanden (Aus)	71 70 67 68
D Lee	73 65 68 70

(Sanden won playoff at first extra hole)

	278
R Lee	72 66 70 70
	279
J Mellor	72 73 71 63
G A Russell	69 71 69 70
	281
U Wehlmann (Aut)	67 71 68 70
D Winchester	73 67 70 71
D Gaillard (Fr)	71 69 68 73
	282
M Brier (Aut)	70 71 68 73
M Pendaries (Fr)	69 71 71 71
B Bjornstad (Nor)	72 68 70 72
R J Derksen (Neth)	72 68 71 71
	283
F Lindgren (Swe)	76 68 64 73
J Carriles (Sp)	72 71 71 69
D Bland	71 73 71 69
C de Aizpurua (Fr)	74 71 68 69
G Park	69 71 69 74
S Little	72 70 68 73
	Also: 285
W Bennett	70 74 70 71
W Riedon	71 70 73 71
	288
J Robinson	74 70 71 73
	289
D D Jones	67 71 77 74
S Watson	76 70 69 74
	290
S Quintana	74 71 73 72
	294
F Howley	71 73 73 75
	295
J Lawson	74 71 72 78
	296
G Farrie	69 71 75 81

JAPAN PGA MATCHPLAY CHAMPIONSHIP (Tomakomai): Promise Cup: First (36 holes): Zhang Moo Myannar bt S Maruyama 3&2. Third Place (18 holes): B Kosaihara bt S Yokota 1up.

SCOTTISH SENIORS OPEN (Dalmahoy): Leading final round scores (GB/Ire unless stated):

	273
G Hulsh	70 66 70 68
D James	68 70 70 67

(Hulsh won play-off at 2nd extra hole).

	274
D Oakley (US)	72 70 68 68
	278
C O'Connor	69 71 71 65
B Brask	(US) 74 66 68 68
	277
A Garrido (Sp)	70 67 72 68
	280
J Garner	71 71 72 66
I Clark	74 69 68 71
B Wood	70 73 68 68
	281
N Coles	73 73 68 69
T Horton	70 72 68 71
J Fourie (SA)	72 69 72 68
D Creamer	73 68 72 67
J Carr (US)	73 69 70 72
B Ratcliffe (Aus)	68 74 70 69
T Gale (Aus)	72 68 72 71
A Berdine (US)	74 69 70 68
	282
R Lendzion (US)	73 70 70 68

EMERALD CLASSIC (Milton, Fla): Leading second-round scores:

	131
I Aoki	65 66
	133
L Thompson	66 67
	134
B Irwin	67 67
D Leadstrom	63 71
	135
J Colbert	68 68
D Quigley	68 68
J Dent	67 68
S Dougherty	67 68
	136
D Wood	70 66
J Jolliffe	70 66
M McCullough	69 67
W Hall	69 67
D Douglas	68 68
S Duval	67 69
	137
S Strobie	71 66
A Doyle	65 66
	138
JC Snead	72 66
B Henson	70 68
B Thomas	69 69
B Cole	69 69
	139
B Arinno	70 66
J Sigel	69 70
T Conner	69 70
G Gilbert	68 71
G Morgan	67 72
	140
B Murphy	69 71
B Bunkenburgh	67 73
S Hickey	67 73
	141
J Albus	71 70
P Gibson	69 72
S King	69 72
	142
J Inman	73 69
H Baiocchi	73 69
J D Morgan	73 69
L Lacretti	71 71
T Shaw	71 71
M Carbonetti	71 71
C Thorpe	71 71
R Thompson	70 72
V Fernandez	70 73
W Morgan	70 72
G Weaver	70 72
L Ziegler	69 73
S Lehnhardt	66 74
H Cooper	68 74
	143
L Trevino	74 68
J Maloney	73 70
D Eichelberger	72 71
W Zaremski	71 72
C Marsh	70 72
M Joyce	68 73
	144
B Blanco	75 69
J P Cain	73 71
H Hensley	70 71
S Zerley	71 72
S Hobday	67 77
	145
B Green	77 68
G Moody	74 71
S Crampton	74 71
B Dickson	72 73
B Eastwood	72 73
B Barnes	70 75

WOMENS IRISH OPEN (Ballyliffin): Leading final scores (GB/Ire unless stated):

	214
S Gustafson (Swe)	68 73 69
I Tinning (Den)	73 73 69

(Gustafson won at 1st play-off hole)

	219
A Gallaher (Swe)	70 70 70
	220
A Rogers	73 75 71
	221
J Forbes	73 74 69
	222
L Davies	77 75 70
M Pinchet-Recalt (Fr)	73 76 71
B Carrisde (Sp)	71 76 75
	223
M Hagenaar (Neth)	73 74 74
	224
L Greve (Den)	73 77 72
J Hand	72 79 72
B Larsson (Swe)	76 74 74
A-M Knight (Aus)	73 73 75
A Larrazeta (Sp)	73 75 73
	225
D Postman (SA)	76 76 73
D Heikkarinen (Fin)	76 73 73
S Forster	74 76 75
	226
E Bateri (Ger)	72 82 72
B Taylor	75 78 75
	227
Y Michaud (Fr)	78 77 72
Y Stenstrud (Nor)	80 74 73
S Luna (Aus)	76 78 73
T Poulton	74 76 77
	228
S Mendiburu (Fr)	74 77 77
	229
T Craik	75 79 75
L Brooky (NZ)	73 75 78
K Andersson (Swe)	73 78 80
	230
S Prosser	77 80 73
M Murray	77 76 75
A Berg (Swe)	74 78 77
C Duffy	76 77 77
	231
E Fields	77 77 77
K Tebbet	79 73 79
S Moon (US)	70 78 83
	232
S Eklund (Swe)	68 77 76
B Karlsson (Swe)	79 77 76
C Schmitt (Fr)	77 79 76
A Sanchez-Torrubiano (Sp)	73 81 78
S Head	76 76 80
G Stewart	76 77 80
	233
S Dallongeville (Fr)	80 78 75
L Muritz (SA)	75 81 77
L Navarro (Sp)	81 74 78
T Fields	74 76 83
	234
E-J Clifford	78 81 75
J van Hagen (Neth)	79 77 78
	235
M Wright	74 82 79
S Arce-Quehles (Fr)	80 74 81
	236
S Bennett	78 82 76
L Kreutz (Fr)	78 81 77
L Neil (Swe)	78 77 81
L McCool	80 74 82

FUJISANKEI LADIES CLASSIC: Leading final round scores (Japanese unless stated):

	313
M Ishikawa	72 70 71 (won playoff)
Shin Sora (S Kor)	68 72 72
A Fukushima	70 73 68
	314
B Hiyoshi	72 70 72
Y Akagi	71 71 72
Tsang Hsin feng (Tai)	68 70 76
	315
S Harada	72 72 71
M Moral	72 71 72
K Higo	69 73 72
	210
Y Fado	73 71 72
	217
M Nakajima	73 72 70
S Asano	73 73 72
Ka Ok Ison (B Kor)	71 72 74
S Ono	73 68 75
C Nishida	67 73 77
	219
A Sohse	73 75 70
M Kubo	71 75 72
	319
S Arai	72 78 71
S Yamazaki	75 73 71
A Ito	73 70 71
Y Ishiguro	71 78 73
K Fujii	71 73 76

TENNIS

US OPEN (Flushing Meadows, NY): Mens Third round: P Rafter (Aus) bt D Nainkin (Rus) 6–1 5–1 6–1; G Ivanisevic (Cro) bt P Haarhuis (Neth) 7–6 6–3 6–4; J Bjorkman (Swe) bt F Santoro (Fr) 6–3 6–1 6–2; M Safin (Rus) bt T Muster (Aut) 6–4 6–4 1–6 6–3; A Agassi (US) bt D Sanguinetti (It) 6–2 6–3 6–0; B Kacovs (Srb) bt A Volnes (Rom) 7–5 6–3 6–2; J Stoltenberg (Neth) bt G Rusedski (GB) 4–6 6–4 5–7 6–2 6–4; P Sampras (US) bt M Tillstrom (Swe) 6–2 6–3 6–1; T Henman (GB) bt M Kohlmann (Ger) 6–3 7–5 1–6 6–4; Y Kafelnikov (Rus) bt N Kiefer (Ger) 6–4 6–0 6–2

Womens Third round: A Coetzer (SA) bt B Schett (Aut) 3–6 6–0 6–3; V Williams (US) bt L Neilands (Lat) 6–0 ret. A Sanchez (Sp) bt S Pitkowski (Fr) 6–2 6–3; M Tessiat (Fr) bt H Nagyova (Svk) 6–1 6–1; L Davenport (US) bt VR Pascual (Sp) 6–2 6–1; A Kournikova (Rus) bt S Farina (It) 6–4 6–1; M Pierce (Fr) bt L Golarsa (It) 6–1 6–0; C Martinez (Sp) bt L Raymond (US) 6–3 3–6 6–2. Fourth round: M Seles (US) bt K Po (US) 6–2 4–6 6–3; M Hingis (Switz) bt N Dechy (France) 6–4 6–4.

Mixed doubles: R Stubbs/J Grabb (Aus/US) bt K Guse/A Kratzman (Aus) 6–2 7–5; D Cretman/S Stolle (US/Aus) bt C Morariu/B McPhie (US) 6–3 6–4; M Lucia/M Bhupathi (Croatia) bt E Likhovtseva/M Costing (Rus/Neth) 6–3 6–3; V Williams/J Gimelstob (US) bt K Kunce/F Montana (Aus/US) 6–3 6–3.

GROSBANK TOUR (Edinburgh): Finals: Men: S Mathias (Aus) bt G Darlington (GB) 6–4 7–6. Women: J Ward (GB) bt L Ahl (GB) 6–2 6–2.

ATHLETICS

IAAF GOLDEN LEAGUE GRAND PRIX FINAL (Moscow): Mens 100m: 1 F Fredericks (Nam) (9.11sec); 2 O Thompson (Bar) 10.11; 3 T Harden (US) 10.12. 400m: 1 M Richardson (GB) 44.35sec; 2 J Young (US) 44.96; 3 I Thomas (GB) 44.98. 1500m: 1 H El Gerrouj (Mor) 3min 32.03sec; 3 L Rotich (Ken) 3.33.04; 6 B Tanui (Ken) 3 33.30. 3,000m: 1 H Gebreselassie (Eth) 7min 50.00sec; 2 L Kipkosgei (Ken) 7.50.67; 3 J Gitahi (Ken) 7.51.49. 400m hurdles: 1 S Diagana (Fr) 48.30sec; 2 D Morgan (Jam) 48.60; 3 B Matete (Zam) 48.73. Triple jump: 1 C Friedek (Ger) 17.33m; 2 D Kasparin (Rus) 17.01; 3 A Gisatski (Belarus) 16.98. High jump: 1 J Solomayor (Cub) 2.31m; 2 B Strand (Swe) 2.28, 3 C Austin (US) 2.28. Pole vault: 1 M Tarasov (Rus) 5.95m; 2 J Galfione (Fr) 5.90; 3 D Ecker (Ger) 5.80. Shot: 1 J Godina (US) 21.21m; 3 Y Belonog (Ukr) 20.62; 6 O–S Buder (Ger) 20.53. Hammer: 1 T Gecsek (Hun) 81.21m; 2 B Klee (Hun) 79.71; 3 A Abduvaliev (Uzb) 70.30.

Womens 100m: 1 M Jones (US) 10.83sec; 3 S Fynes (Bah) 11.10; 3 I Miller (US) 11.15. 400m: 1 F Ogunkoya (Nig) 49.73sec; 2 C Opara (Nig) 50.09; 3 S Richards (Jam) 50.44. 1500m: 1 S Masterkova (Rus) 4min 3 80sec; 2 K Dulecha (Eth) 4.04.72; 3 C Szczampnio (Por) 4.05.82. 3,000m: 1 G Wami (Eth) 8min 40 11sec; 2 Z Ouaziz (Mor) 8.40.45; 3 M Pantyukova (Rus) 8 47 77. 100m hurdles: 1 M Freeman (Jam) 12.58sec; 3 M Morrison (US) 12.63, 5 G Alozie (Nig) 12.72. Long jump: 1 M Jones (US) 7. 13m, 3 H Drechsler (Ger) 6.99; 3 F May (It) 6 88. Javelin: 1 T Damaske (Ger) 68.40m; 3 T Sakorlenko (Rus) 67.84; 3 T Hattestad (Nor) 67.26. Discus: 1 N Sadova (Rus) 68.50m, 2 F Dietzsch (Ger) 65.24; 3 N Grasu (Rom) 65 10.

AUSTRALIAN RULES

AFL: Qualifying finals: Melbourne 17.13 (115) Adelaide 9 13 (67); Sydney 12.17 (89) St Kilda 13.9 (87).

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Friday: Detroit 2, Cleveland 10; Toronto 12, Boston 1; Chicago WS 6, NY Yankees 11; Texas 9, Minnesota 3; Anaheim 3, Kansas City 5; Seattle 1, Baltimore 10; Oakland 2, Tampa Bay 5. **Saturday:** Toronto 4, Boston 3; Seattle 8, Baltimore 5; Chicago WS 9, NY Yankees 5; Detroit 4, Cleveland 5; Texas 4, Minnesota 7, Oakland 3, Tampa Bay 0; Anaheim 2, Kansas City 1. **NATIONAL LEAGUE: Friday:** Florida 0, Montreal 8; Pittsburgh 2, Chicago Cubs 5; NY Mets 2, Atlanta 1; Milwaukee 2, Philadelphia 6; St Louis 2, Cincinnati 3; Colorado 11, San Diego 5; Arizona 3, Houston 1; Los Angeles 8, San Francisco 5. **Saturday:** NY Mets 5, Atlanta 4; St Louis 7, Cincinnati 0; Colorado 2, San Diego 4; Arizona 5 (12inn), Houston 8; Los Angeles 6, San Francisco 3; Florida 1, Montreal 7; Pittsburgh 4, Chicago Cubs 8, Milwaukee 3, Philadelphia 2 (14inn).

BOWLS

TALBOT TROPHY (Blackpool): Sixth round: P Fielding (Rochdale) bt P Slinger (Blackburn) 21–16, P Hawkes (Preston) to D Storer (Burntwood) 21–12; B Baxter (Blackpool) bt A Broadhurst (Aspull) 21–19; P Blackburn (Wakefield) bt A J Walker (Sheffield) 21–1; P Wilson (Lytham) bt R Everitt (Walsall) 21–15. A Cairns (Rossendale) bt D Kirkham (Stretford) 21–11; G Cookson (Winsford) bt M Holcroft (Blackpool) 21–19. W Munro (Audenshaw) bt G Beeley (Hyde) 21–8.

CANOEING

FLATWATER WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (Szeged, Hun): Finals: Mens Canoe 500m: 1 M Opalev (Rus) 2min 1.009sec; 3 A Dittmer (Ger) 2.01.517; 3 M Silvinskiy (Ukr) 2.02 413. Pairs: 1 C Horvath/G Kolonics (Hun) 1min 45.941sec; 2 P Barzykowicz/D Jedraszko (Pol) 1 47 181; 3 T Zereske/C Gillo (Ger) 1.47.403. Fours: 1 C Horvath, G Kolonics, L Szuszka, C Huttner (Hun) 1min 37.589sec; 2 G Andrlov, F Popescu, C Pasca, I Avanan (Rom) 1.37 723; 3 P Konovalov, V Polzounov, V Loiocha, A Kabanov (Rus) 1.39 775. Kayak 500m: 1 A Vereckei (Hun) 1min 43 546sec, 2 M Kolganov (Ger) 1.43 696; 2 L Liwowski (Ger) 1.44.705. Pairs: 1 M Risdorfer/J Baca (Slovak) 1min 32.286sec, 2 B Bonami/L Negri (It) 1.32.286, 3 K Bertal/G Horvath (Hun) 1 32 538. Fours: 1 T Gutsche, M Zabel, B Bach, S Uhr (Ger) 1min 24.959sec, 2 B Storcz, K Bartal, Z Szadovszki, M Bauer (Hun) 1.25.763; 3 A Tiesino, A Chichogolikhine, V Gankina, R Zarubina (Rus) 1.25.871. Womens Kayak 500m: 1 C Brunet (Can) 1min 55.174sec; 3 K Borchert (Aus) 1.56.722. 3 J Isom (It) 1 56.722. Pairs: 1 K Borchert/A Wood (Aus) 1min 50.882sec, 2 B Fischer/A Schuck (Ger) 1.51.066. 3 K Dekany/R Kopan (Hun) 1.52 109. Fours: 1 S Fischer, A Schuck, M Mucke, M Bedner (Ger) 1min 42.939sec, 2 K Dekany, S Szabo, A Barocsi, K Kovacs (Hun) 1.43.991; 3 B Manchon, I Aramburu, A M Panea, B Sanchez (Sp) 1.45.227.

CROWN GREEN BOWLS

WATERLOO (Blackpool): Fifth round: G Cunningham (Higher Openshaw) bt W Watson (Castleford) 21–16; B Mason (Doncaster) bt B Trevas (Bolton) 21–18; G Cookson (Winsford) bt A Walsh (Bolton) 21–18; D Walker (Swinton) bt N Jenkinson (Sale) 21–14; T Hayes (Hyde) bt C Thompson (Croston) 21–12

NatWest Trophy final Derbyshire v Lancashire

Uprooting Michael Atherton's off stump was Derbyshire's one success as Lancashire romped home for their captain Wasim Akram to collect the trophy PHOTOGRAPHS: ADRIAN MURRELL

Mike Selvey reports from Lord's on a profitable weekend's work for Lancashire

Austin fires Red Rose dreams of the treble

THERE is a rumour that the sponsors NatWest would like a change to the current format of their final, which would involve two sides playing a game of cricket to decide who tosses a coin.

Once again the September final was reduced to a contest of such one-sidedness that a watchdog body — Ofcrik — might be needed to investigate unjustifiable use of the word "match".

By 1pm yesterday the Red Rose had secured a game that because of inclement weather did not even start until 4.30pm on Saturday and finished for the day shortly after 7pm.

Lancashire's nine-wicket victory matched that of Essex last year and was the seventh time they have lifted either this trophy or the 60-over Gillette Cup.

Saturday's clammy atmosphere and low cloud meant that the toss would be crucial; but few could have anticipated to what extent. Derbyshire, who needed all the help they could get in any case, got none, except for some wild bowling in the opening overs after Wasim Akram predictably had sent them in to bat.

Instead, an improbable opening stand of 70 between Kim Barnett and Michael Slater was followed by a collapse of record-book proportions. Seven wickets fell for 11 runs against some superb swing and seam from the bowling barrel Ian Austin and Peter Martin, and in all 10 wickets went for 38.

The Derbyshire total of 108 is the lowest first innings in the final of this competition, or its predecessor, and second lowest for either innings.

A target of 109 was never sufficient even to apply a modicum of pressure on a side as streetwise as Lancashire and once Mike Atherton had been missed at slip off Dominic Cork from the fourth ball of their reply the runes had been well and truly read.

Cork got some satisfaction by uprooting Atherton's off stump with a dream delivery, but it merely served to bring Neil Fairbrother — making a record tenth appearance in a Lord's final — in to join John Crawley. Their unbroken second-wicket stand of 81, from 20 overs, saw Lancashire home with virtually half their scheduled overs in hand, Crawley finishing 53 not out from 92 balls with 11 immaculate boundaries to Fairbrother's 38. Derbyshire were in the game as far as the 19th over and no further. Wasim and Martin had thrown extra runs at the batsmen in the form of wides and no balls, neither bowler settling, so that by the eighth over Martin was replaced by Glen Chapple and shortly after that Wasim himself gave way to Austin.

Between them the bowlers began to claw back the initiative.

The collapse when it came, though, beggared belief as Slater had just driven Chapple for six over extra cover and then pulled him for four to regain the upper hand. Austin had been niggling away at the other end and in the following over Slater played round his pad and was lbw. Wasim brought back Martin for the next over and, finding his rhythm immediately, hit Barnett's leg stump without further addition.

Two more wickets fell at 71, and a further three 10 runs later, and at 92 for seven when the light closed in Cork and Karl Krikken were left with much to do yesterday if a competitive total of around 150 was to be reached. Instead, Cork was given out caught from what seemed to be his hip, Krikken was caught behind and Vince Clarke, after three resounding smacks to the boundary, had his stumps splattered.

Scoreboard

DERBYSHIRE

M J Slater lbw b Austin	34
K J Barnett b Martin	28
A S Rollins c Flintoff b Martin	1
R M S Weston b Austin	0
M S Caesar c Chapple b Austin	8
S J Spendlove lbw b Martin	4
*D G Cork c Hegg b Wasim	5
P A J DeFreitas lbw b Martin	0
†K M Krikken c Hegg b Flintoff	2
V P Clarke b Wasim	18
K J Dean not out	0
Extras (lb5, w7, nb6)	20
Total (38.4 overs)	108

Fall of wickets 70, 70, 71, 71, 81, 81, 81, 84, 102.

Bowlings Wasim 8.4-1-30-2; Martin 9-2-19-4; Chapple 6-0-27-0; Austin 10-4-14-3, Flintoff 3-1-4-1.

LANCASHIRE

M A Atherton b Cork	18
J P Crawley not out	53
N H Fairbrother not out	38
Extras (lb2, w4, nb2)	8
Total (for 1, 30.2 overs)	109

Fall of wickets 28.

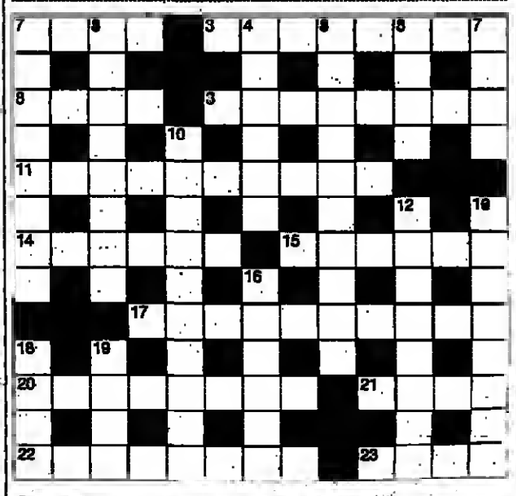
Did not bat G D Lloyd, A Flintoff, †W K Hegg, *Wasim Akram, G Yates, I D Austin, G Chapple, P J Martin.

Bowlings Cork 10.2-4-34-1; Dean 5-0-38-0; DeFreitas 9-3-13-0, Caesar 6-0-32-0.

Umpires K E Palmer and G Sharp.

Lancashire won by nine wickets.

Quick Crossword No. 8846

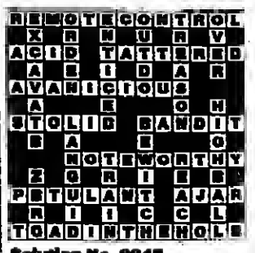


Across

1 Lure (4)
3 A celebration of agel (8)
8 Manage — an investment! (4)
9 Event (8)
11 Parapet (10)
14 Observe — a review (6)
15 East European — may be French! (6)
17 Recuperate (10)
20 Blameworthy (8)
21 Shy — actors (4)
22 Naughtiness (8)
23 Eager — to lament (4)

Down

1 Spine (8)
2 Rude (8)
4 Disregard (6)
5 Under-developed countries (5,5)
6 Eating regime — council (4)
7 Abominable snowman (4)
10 Violent deranged person (10)
12 Deter (8)
13 To menace (8)
16 Develop (6)
18 Dross (4)
19 Unfortunately (4)



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Manchester: Telephone 0161-832 7200, Fax 0161-832 6351/834 9717, Telephone sales 0161-834 8686. London: Telephone 0171-278 2332, Fax 0171-837 2114; 1071-833 8342, Telephone sales 0171-611 9000. Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office ISSN 0261-307

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